

Spring 2011

highlights

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Director's Corner

Carla Peterson

CURE members and leaders have been busy this past fall and winter. In October, we held our Annual Meeting in Norfolk with an attendance of over 60 people. Thanks go to our Norfolk chapter and especially to leader Cindy Gibbs, for the hard work of putting this meeting together. As most of you know, from the last newsletter, we had a large number of speakers, all of whom were amazing people. A number of people came up and expressed their thanks for such a great meeting! Our Annual Advocacy Day saw a strong CURE presence at the General Assembly in January. As usual, we left our trademark orange folders with every legislator and spoke to a number of legislators or aides. We testified at and observed a number of hearings on bills of concern to us. Virginia CURE was also part of a voting rights alliance. The group met to discuss strategy and also met with the Secretary of the Commonwealth to press this issue. Unfortunately, in spite of all of the alliance's hard work, and efforts, all voting rights bills failed.

Virginia CURE also spoke at, or co-sponsored several meetings with other organizations. We spoke at the Exodus Annual Rally in Richmond and we co-sponsored the Social Action Linking Together (SALT), Richmond Wrap-up in Vienna, which had over 13 legislators in attendance. Delegate Patrick Hope (D-47) introduced the Progressive Caucus, which it is hoped, will be able to more effectively move "progressive" bills. The caucus has been created with 21 members and more will be added.

Virginia CURE received some publicity this year via media appearances. Al Simmons, our Richmond leader, appeared on Richmond TV channel 12, and was interviewed about the new Parole Board. Hampton Roads CURE leader, James Bailey, and I were interviewed for a half hour radio program on WGPL (1350 AM) in Norfolk. Though initially nervous, once we got going, it was difficult to stop! We had so much to say!

Finally we ask your prayers and good wishes for Jean Auldridge, former Director and current President of Virginia CURE, who is recuperating from illness in an Alexandria rehab center. Letters and cards can be sent to: Jean Auldridge, Room 49, The Fountains at Washington House, 5100 Fillmore Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22311-5069

Virginia CURE Chapter News

The Virginia CURE Hampton Roads chapter has decided to focus on recidivism since this is such an important reason for the over incarceration of our citizens. The chapter has begun a project that will contain several initiatives. Some of the initiatives include

developing an ex offender handbook, generating a list of ex-offender friendly employers, and holding resume workshops and mock job fairs. The chapter continues to invite speakers to inform on issues important to CURE at their regular meetings.

The **Northern Virginia CURE chapter** met in January to discuss legislation currently being considered in the General Assembly and what members could do to support legislation of concern to CURE. The group heard from an ex offender who described his difficulty in finding employment and the new Advocacy Council created by the Arlington OAR. The chapter has also hosted Del. Patrick Hope (D-47), who spoke of his anti shackling bill (**HB 1488**) and retiring Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple (D-31), who spoke of her years in the General Assembly and the significance of redistricting.

The **Richmond CURE chapter** presented a Reentry Forum in March that included speakers Fran Bolin from Assisting Families of Inmates, Kate Duvall of Just Children and Martha Rollins of Boaz & Ruth. The group also hosted Rachael Satiafa, author of "Love Locked Down" at the February meeting. Ms. Satiafa has worked with families of prisoners for 30 years and shared her experiences with the group. Richmond members continue to attend events in Richmond as representatives of Virginia CURE.

In Memory

Virginia CURE members mourn the passing of death penalty abolitionist **Marie Deans**, 70, of lung cancer. Ms. Deans formed Murder Victims Families Against the Death Penalty in 1976, later founded the Virginia Coalition on Jails and Prisons, a public-interest group that specialized in providing pro bono legal assistance from the time of arrest to eventual executions, stays or exonerations and lastly created the Virginia Mitigation Project to persuade juries to reject capital verdicts. She worked tirelessly to find pro bono legal aid for many on death row and was the first to bring the case of Earl Washington to light. Ms. Deans also took up the cause of CURE member Joseph Giarratano, convincing Gov. Wilder to commute his sentence to Life. Although she identified numerous inconsistencies during his trial and sentencing, she was unable to see him freed.

We also mourn the death of **Dennis Roach** who created the style of this newsletter, designed the Virginia CURE logos and worked closely with Jean Auldridge to lay out this newsletter. Dennis was a valuable and dependable resource for Virginia CURE and we will miss him greatly.

Virginia CURE An effort to reduce crime through criminal justice reform

Legislative highlights 2011 General Assembly

The 2011 General Assembly was preoccupied with budget issues resulting in fewer criminal justice bills this year. Earned credits for good time bills (**SB 1316**, McEachin (D-9), **SB 796**, Locke (D-2)) were defeated in committee in the Senate. The Governor sent representatives to the hearing to express his opposition to earned credits and his strong support for Truth in Sentencing. Other failed bills included the TANF opt out for drug offenders (**HB 1632**, Watts (D-39), **SB 1238**, Ticer (D-30)), Expungment of records of drug charges; (**HB 1463**, O.Ware (D-11)), Prohibition of use of restraints on those prisoners who are pregnant (**HB 1488**, Hope (D-47)), Reduction of penalty for marijuana possession by prisoners (**HB 2298**, Englin (D-45)), Marijuana; decriminalization of simple possession (**HB 1443**, Morgan (R-98)), Waiver of payment of interest on fines and costs; incarcerated defendant, (**HB 2347**, Morrissey (D-74)), **SB 775**, Marsh (D-16)) Restoration of civil rights to persons convicted of felonies (**HJ 497**, **HJ 524**, **HJ 543**, **HJ 610**, **HJ 634**, **SJ 284**, (Dance (D-63), O.Ware (D-11), C. Herring (D-46), Carr (D-69), Morrissey (D-74), Surovell (D-44), Y. Miller (D-5)).

There were fewer sex offender bills in 2011 than there have been in past years. Legislators were, the newspapers reported, shocked at how much civil commitment was costing the state. This led to the passage of **SJ 348** (Hanger R-24) that directs the Virginia State Crime Commission to study federal requirements regarding Virginia's sex offender registry, examine the effectiveness of the registry in preventing sexual victimization, and determine the feasibility of implementing a tiered system.

Other bills that passed, included **HB 2225** (T.Wright (R-61)) requiring the DOC to establish for each inmate a personal savings account consisting of 10 percent of any funds received by an inmate from any source until the account has a balance of \$1,000, to be given to the prisoner upon release, and **HB 2362** (McClellan (D-71)) authorizing the Court to issue a restricted license to travel to and from jail when the defendant is on work release.

Two bills that failed, but that CURE would like to see enacted, were "sunshine" bills: **HB 1804** (Surovell (D-44)) requiring digital recordings of meetings of House standing committees and subcommittees, and **HB 1566** (LeMunyon (R-67)) House and Senate voting records; publication on legislative electronic information system. Three drug court bills also failed, though we believe this was due to cost.

Though our "big bills" failed, there were some bills that passed! The full list of 2011 legislation followed by Virginia CURE is available on the website, www.vacure.org or can be obtained by a request in writing to

OUR NEW ADDRESS: Virginia CURE, P.O. Box 2310, Vienna, VA 22183.

Juvenile Justice Legislation 2011

Eileen Grey

The major accomplishment this session was the defeat of a bill (**SB 914**, (McDougal R-4)) that would have expanded the numbers of youth automatically sent to the adult/circuit court. This bill was recommended by the Virginia Crime Commission.

Youth as young as 14 can be sentenced in adult court and be incarcerated in adult prisons and jails. The adult felony charge creates barriers to employment and education. Nearly 700 kids a year are sent to adult court in Virginia. These are not the "worst of the worst" as many think. One in five kids sent to adult court are released on probation. Over a 7 year period, from 2001-2008, the total percentage of youth found guilty of homicide was 6% and of sexual assault was 8%. The Supreme Court's recent decision to prohibit death sentences for minors is a reflection of developments in psychology and neurology, as well as data indicating that the trial and incarceration of youth as adults results in higher recidivism rates and other negative repercussions.

Virginia CURE strongly supported **SB 948** (J. Howell (D-32)) which would have allowed judges to give youth the opportunity to earn a juvenile sentence after completion of certain requirements. Sen. Howell pulled the bill when it became apparent that it would not pass the Senate. CURE also supported **SB 822** (Edwards D-31)) that would give a juvenile the right to appeal a decision to send the juvenile to circuit court. This bill failed as well.

We believe these bills would have a better chance in a future General Assembly and look forward to working for their passage.

Senate Finance Sub Committee meets on reentry on June 8.

The Public Safety Subcommittee of the Senate Finance Committee held a special meeting on June 8 in the General Assembly building in Richmond to hear reports on the state of the Governor's reentry initiative. Reports were given by Marla Decker, Secretary of Public Safety, Bill Muse, Parole Board Chairman, Banci Tewolde, Reentry Coordinator and representatives of 3 agencies; Harold Clarke, Director of the Department of Corrections, Helivi Holland, Director of the Department of Juvenile Justice and Pat Wilson, Department of Correctional Education.

A number of CURE members were present to hear the reports which will be featured in the next edition of Inside Out.

Quarterly Meeting Highlights

Virginia CURE leaders and Board members met with the DOC Staff on April 29, 2011 for our spring Quarterly Meeting. The following topics were among those discussed:

- 1. Availability of spoken religious CDs:** The question was posed as to how the recent court decision on spoken CDs would be implemented. Could they order from vendors other than Jones and what would constitute a religious CD? What faiths or philosophies would be acceptable? Dr. Cei explained that they have a Faith Review Committee that makes decisions on what will be permitted, but first they will need a request from an offender. There is a Religious Advisor for the committee, Rev. Randy Meyers, an ex officio member, not state employed, with a background in comparative religions to whom they can apply for advice. In order, however, to receive religious CDs, prisoners must be practicing that religion for at least 6 months, ie: going to services, etc. If there are no services available, they must have the literature for that religion and be familiar with it. This is to prevent people from making up religions! At this time, they are still working on how this new procedure will be implemented.
- 2. E-mail.** E-mail is taking time to get established because they are still working on the pilot project at Green Rock. This prison was chosen because it is new and has the most appropriate wiring. They are completing the special wiring now. By June 15th, the firewalling should be done and technical testing of that part of the installation finished. The rest of the equipment will go in and be tested. They could not say how long the testing would take. The e-mail will be available as part of the **Kiosk model**, which will include a screen and a keyboard for a determined number of people. This “kiosk” will be utilized for other than e-mail. It will have the potential to be used for educational activities, for forms and applications, banking, ordering commissary items, checking time computations and other uses over time as needs arise. Kiosks are being used currently in a several other systems.
- 3. Status of DCE employees:** Some DCE employees may now be supervised by the DOC as Offender Workforce Development Specialists have been moved to DOC positions. On July 1st funding for these positions will come from the DOC. Teachers will keep their teaching licenses. There will be a reentry employment and resource center for each reentry site for job hunting.. Education in prisons is taking a blow, however, since the federal college grant will be discontinued in 18 months and will be a disappointment to those taking classes via this grant. It would be good if Pell grants could come back, but that probably won't happen. People who pay for classes may also see some cancellations due to lack of students who were on the grant.
- 4. Use of Commissary funds:** In response to a letter from a group of prisoners who asserted that commissary funds are being used for general maintenance, DOC staff stated that there was a certain amount of flexibility in interpretation. They did not feel that commissary funds were being spent on maintenance and operation of the prisons, as they defined it. Anything that was not a necessity was considered an appropriate use of the funds. Padding the gymnasium walls is not a necessity and is therefore an extra. Ice bags were also considered an extra. Buying chairs for ceremonies and other uses was, again, interpreted as something that could be applied to recreational activities; facilities have laundries, so washers and dryers are not a necessity but a convenience. In response to a question about why the Chaplains were getting commissary funding, we were informed that the legislature directed a percentage of the commissary fund be given to the Chaplains. This was a budget amendment a few years ago patroned by Del. Kirk Cox (R-55). Assisting Families of Inmates also receives commissary funding, which was begun sometime in the 1970s and was related to their transportation service to prisons. Commissary profits, by the way, are going down. This is in part due to the lowering of population.
- 5. Use of Physicians Assistants:** PAs work under the direction of a Physician. If the physician does not keep track of their work, their license could be pulled. On the other hand, if an emergency arises when a PA is on duty, then they have to handle it. Physicians work in a facility for 4 hours a week minimum and sometimes more. Doctors usually review files in the case of injury, we were advised. In many cases, they get an orthopedic consult. As for **diabetic complaints**, especially concerning evening snacks, the new medicines are making these unnecessary. There is a proliferation of new oral agents for type 2 diabetics and new types of insulin have broader range and duration, maintaining basal levels for 24 hours a day. CURE Board member, Frances Boatman suggested that some foods good for diabetics could be made available in the vending machines during visitation as there is not much now. The DOC staff will consider this suggestion. CURE will follow up.
- 6. Reentry Initiative:** Intensive reentry programs have begun at Coffeewood, Deep Meadow and St. Brides Correctional Centers. Staff training is currently ongoing. Many inmates have been moved to reentry pods. (We hope to look more closely at the reentry initiative in the next edition of Inside Out.)

The meeting ended with a discussion of the COMPAS risk assessment tool that will be used in a variety of ways in the Department. The discussion was too technical to repeat here but may be covered in a future issue.

Virginia CURE Meets New Director of the Department of Corrections

CURE Board Members Jean Auldridge, Bob Bohall, Rev. Bill Twine, Mary Anne Stone, Virginia CURE Director Carla Peterson, and ex Board member Tom Petersik met with Director Clarke in December. The telephone issue was discussed since Director Clarke had been successful in correcting this situation in a previous post. Director Clarke explained, however, that in the case of that phone system, he had complete control over the profits, so was able to reduce the amount families had to pay. It is not, unfortunately, the same in many other systems, including Virginia.. Next followed a discussion about the commissary costs and where the money goes. There is about \$2.9 million generated; 800 thousand of which goes to the Chaplains; other funds go for transportation for families and for recreation equipment and other supplies. Director Clarke informed us that email was coming and will be available via kiosks. There are some pilot kiosks currently being tested (see *Quarterly Meeting Notes, p 3*).

Reentry was mentioned as an important issue for Virginia CURE. Clarke stated that the reentry initiative will be “dynamic and will be altered to make it work”. “We are in the business of reentry” he stated. “The truest measure of success comes when people are released”. Clarke related an experience from a Massachusetts prison where staff were told that they must do something *now* to help prepare people for work. The staff knew this was a challenge, but agreed and decided to begin by looking at the cafeteria. This led to the development of a culinary arts curriculum, training people to work in restaurant kitchens. Other such programs were developed in other areas.

When questioned about the possibility of establishing more PIE (Prison Industry Enhancement) programs, the Director informed us that he was a warden at a state penitentiary in 1987 when a PIE program was first begun. The program was very popular and when the program was threatened with being cut, prisoners worked pro bono to save the program; they worked on IOUs, in fact. The Director felt that work is important and he would like to get the PIE up and running. “Washington State has a tremendous PIE program.”

The Director assured us that he wants to “create a culture that will serve you on into the future” He explained that there were distinct cultures in our various facilities. Tom asked if any of these programs could turn into work release. In Massachusetts, we were told, the goal was that at least 80% leaving prison would go directly to work release. There were 15 work release centers and another 10 were opened in areas where prisoners were likely to be released so that they could continue working after release.

We then discussed the unit management concept, which he felt was the best approach, with unit teams involved in everything from discipline to classification. Director Clarke felt that Corrections was “not an art, but a science”. Everything has to have been studied.

Director Clarke assured us that he believes in staff development and will refer to the National Institute of Corrections for guidance. He plans on developing a five-year vision, which will use a process called the “future search” process – a 2 and 1/2 day conversation with people from all walks. At the conclusion of this activity, values in common will be established, there will be “vision points” reflective of the collective thought of many people.

When he was asked “How can CURE help?” Director Clarke answered: “Get together and have these conversations on a regular basis.”

FYI:

From the Governor’s Press Release Upon the Appointment of Harold Clarke



“Harold Clarke joined the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services as a counselor in 1974...[and]rose through the ranks in the department becoming a unit manager, deputy warden, and then warden at the Nebraska State Penitentiary in 1987. In August of 1990, he was appointed Director of the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services, a position he held until 2005. As the Director of the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services, Clarke developed and implemented a community focused re-entry plan for the department. In 2007, Mr Clarke left Nebraska to become the Secretary of the Washington State Department of Corrections where he was instrumental in obtaining American Correctional Association accreditation for 22 of the 30 facilities in less than three years.

In November of 2007, Mr. Clarke accepted the position of Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Correction. During his tenure as Commissioner, the level of inmate assaults were reduced by 24 percent and assaults on staff were reduced by 30 percent. Commissioner Clarke developed and implemented a re-entry plan for the agency which involved changing how segregation units were used to promote re-entry.

His awards include the Legacy Award from the Association of Women Executives in Corrections; the Pioneer Human Services Partner of the Year Award; and the Michael Francke Award from the Association of State Correctional Administrators.

Mr Clarke has served as the President of the American Correctional Association and as President of the Association of State Correctional Administrators.”

CURE meets with new Parole Board Chairman and Vice Chairman

Virginia CURE director Carla Peterson and Board Chairman Rev. Bill Twine met with Chairman Bill Muse and Vice Chair Karen Brown of the new Parole Board on March 14th.

CURE was informed that the new board is currently studying the parole process, as it has been followed in the past. They may make changes and have some “innovative ideas”, but it is too soon to present details, as they are still learning. Carla presented them with a copy of the CURE document “What’s Wrong with the Parole Board”. This document lists problems and suggests solutions and clearly presents the Virginia CURE point of view on this issue. The board members stated that they could not meet personally with potential parolees, and while they were comfortable with the notion of video meetings, with prisoners, this was not possible at this time due to numbers of potential parolees and the small number of people on the Parole Board, three of whom are part time. They also stated that they were comfortable utilizing a risk assessment tool, but were unsure about the COMPAS tool since they felt it was not accurate enough. Carla suggested that they contact an expert in risk assessment tools who is a professor at George Mason, University for information on this topic. Bill suggested that they also look at the tool being used very successfully in North Carolina.

It was made clear that the investigator is not a board member, but a board employee. This person is there to investigate such things as inaccuracies in records. Chairman Muse stated that he is proud to announce this appointment, as this is the first time the Parole Board will have an investigator. There is still a fifth position on the board to be filled. Mr. Muse and Ms. Brown were open to having another meeting with CURE in the future when their process is more finalized.

Law Suits

The Parole Board Class Action Lawsuit: Update

The Legal Aid Justice Center in Charlottesville is pleased to report that they have filed an appeal in the Fourth Circuit. The case number is 11-1324. Briefs for the plaintiffs are due June 6.

Suit results In Virginia Prisons Allowing Legal Handbook

A legal guide to challenging prison mistreatment will be made available in Virginia’s prison libraries as part of a lawsuit settlement. According to a settlement agreement between the civil rights organizations behind the suit,” the Virginia Department of Corrections will place five copies of the previously banned “The Jailhouse Lawyer’s Handbook” in each prison’s library. Prisoners will also be able to buy subscriptions or receive gift subscriptions for publications from the handbook publishers, the National Lawyers Guild and Center for Constitutional Rights. The suit against the DOC, was brought to Charlottesville Federal Court in July 2010, was the result of a prisoner complaint at Coffeewood Correctional Center, whose order of the book was denied by the Publications Review Committee because it “contained material whose content could be detrimental to the security, good order, discipline of the facility or offender rehabilitative efforts or safety or health of offenders, staff or others.” Larry Traylor, DOC spokesman, said “The only reason a publication order would not be authorized is if the publication already appears on the disapproved list or if the offender does not have the funds to purchase [a publication]. Criteria for disapproval had been changed in November. Traylor confirmed that inmates may order or receive gift subscriptions of the handbook. It is available for free online at ww.jailhouselaw.org/CCRNLGJHL.pdf.

Prisoner wins religious rights suit against the state

Rashid Qawi Al-Amin, a Virginia CURE member, has won a suit against the state that allows him to receive Muslim reading and media materials. The legal battle had been going on for seven years with a number of rulings in Al-Amin’s favor and followed appeals by the state. Al -Amin has filed 10 lawsuits challenging the DOC’s treatment of Muslims. This case was set for trial on May 10, but Attorney General Cuccinelli decided to settle and the trial was canceled. The settlement has the DOC spending up to \$2,500 on Islamic library materials for the Greensville Correctional Center, where Al-Amin is housed. The DOC will also hire a Muslim inmate to work in the library and inmates at Greensville will be allowed to donate religious materials to the library, subject to security review. Al-Amin can now use his Muslim name and prisoners can assist in the preparation of religious meals. The Department agreed to pay Al-Amin to cover the costs he expended preparing and fighting for the suit. Hopefully Rashid’s efforts will affect treatment in other facilities as well. Mabruk, Rashid, for your tenacity! Sometimes you can fight “city hall” and win!

Prisoner’s First Amendment Lawsuit Settled

The Department of Corrections settled in April another lawsuit brought by a prisoner who was prevented from ordering a religious CD. The lawsuit accused the DOC of violating the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment, the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and several aspects of the Constitution of Virginia. Kyle Mabe was at St. Brides Correctional Center in Chesapeake when he ordered the "Life Without a Cross" sermon, available only on CD. According to the suit, Mabe was told that prisoners can only receive music CDs and not sermons on CDs and he was unable to obtain the CD, despite a grievance and appeal to DOC officials.. The settlement resulted in prisoners now being able to request spoken word religious media through the prison approved Jones Express Music and prison chaplains or designated staff members. (For more information, see our *Quarterly Meeting Notes on page 3*).

Parole Grant Rates Update

Bob Bohall

A final hurrah for the outgoing Parole Board!. They granted 4 paroles to old law prisoners while not granting 289 requests. This is a grant rate of 1.3 percent (rounded to 2% in the chart), which is the lowest grant rate for the entire period we have been tracking results.

The current update includes March 2011 data. The March grant rate was 2.2 per cent out of 280 decisions. The overall grant rate for 2010 was 7.1 percent compared with 8.7 percent for all of 2009, 6.0 percent for 2008, 4.7 percent for 2007 and 3.8 percent for 2006. The 51 parole revocations in March 2011 were the highest since June 2009. Prior to 2009 annual parole revocations were several times the number of prisoners that were granted parole. Whether the relatively high March 2011 revocations reflect a policy shift and a return to patterns of 2008 and prior years remains to be seen. The low rate of prisoners being granted parole in February and March 2011 may also represent a policy shift to an extremely conservative set of standards for parole.

	Granted Parole	Not Granted	Revoked	Youthful Offender*
2011	Number	Percent	Number	Age 36 or less
January	18	6%	262	47
February	7	2%	315	39
March	9	2%	404	45

*Juveniles under age 21 committing felonies after January 1, 1995 may be eligible for parole depending on circumstances. A 20 year old juvenile committing a felony in 1995 would be 36 in 2011.

The Virginia Parole Board Monthly Decisions can be accessed at www.vadoc.vpb. As always, the numbers have been carefully checked.

Some Recent Reports

NAACP Report Focuses On Prison/education Spending

In a new report, Misplaced Priorities: Over Incarcerate, Under Educate, the NAACP examines the country's over funding of prisons and under funding of education. The report tracks prison admission rates and school performance in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Indianapolis, Jackson (MS), Houston, and New York. The results show a correlation between high incarceration neighborhoods and low school performance.

During the last two decades state spending on prisons grew at six times the rate of state spending on higher education. The report notes that in 2008 Pennsylvania taxpayers spent almost \$281 million to incarcerate residents sentenced from nine Philadelphia zip codes. Meanwhile, spending per student in Philadelphia's schools lagged well behind several districts in the surrounding suburbs.

The NAACP is calling for improvements in sentencing and drug policy and the creation of a commission to conduct systematic reviews of the criminal justice system

(From the Sentencing Project)

Another Report by the People Who Gave Us One in a Hundred!

State of Recidivism: The Revolving Door of America's Prisons

More than four in ten offenders nationwide return to state prison within three years of their release despite a massive increase in state spending on prisons, according to a Pew report. States today spend more than \$50 billion a year on corrections, yet recidivism rates remain stubbornly high. As the slumping economy forces states to do more with less, policy makers are looking for a better public safety return on their corrections dollars. While overall figures are discouraging, the report highlights the strategies that three states— Michigan, Missouri and Oregon— have employed to reduce returns to prison. The largest reductions in recidivism are realized when evidence-based programs and practices are implemented in prisons and govern the supervision of probationers and parolees in the community post-release.

Available from PEW Center on the States at pewcenteronthestates.org/initiatives_detail.aspx?initiativeID=31336.

A Note About Letters to Virginia CURE

While Virginia CURE cares about your concerns and appreciates being kept informed, we don't have a volunteer staff large enough to reply promptly to all letters received. Please, keep it short and to the point. Do not send legal papers. We do not have the capacity to deal with legal issues. Please note our new address at

P.O. Box 2310, Vienna, VA 22183

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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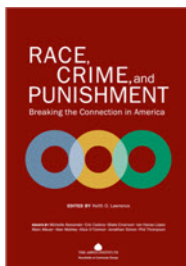
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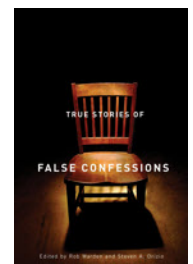
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Recent Books**Race, Crime, and Punishment: Breaking the Connection in America**

Edited by Keith O. Lawrence, Essays by Michelle Alexander, Eric Cadora, Blake Emerson, Ian Haney Lopez, Marc Mauer, Alan Mobley, Alice O'Connor, Jonathon Simon and Phil Thomson

This book examines the linkage of race, crime, and punishment in the public mind, and offers strategies for reducing the severe racial disproportionalities in the criminal justice system. The papers address two core themes: (1) changing public perceptions of race, crime, and punishment; and (2) alternative visions of justice and strategic opportunities and challenges for reformers to realize them. Download from the publisher, the Aspen Institute at aspeninstitute.org/publications.

True Stories of False Confessions, Rob Warden and Steve Drizin present compelling accounts of false confessions—articles adapted from newspapers, magazines, and books by distinguished writers, including Sydney Schanberg, Alex Kotlowitz, and John Grisham. The authors have organized the articles into categories, such as, brainwashing, child abuse, and fabrication, that will help readers understand the factors that lead people to confess to crimes they did not commit. Available from of the Center on Wrongful Convictions at <http://www.law.northwestern.edu/wrongfulconvictions/>



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
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- 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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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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