

GRATERFRIENDS

A Publication of The Pennsylvania Prison Society

Promoting a humane, just and constructive correctional system and a rational approach to criminal justice since 1787

Volume 47, Issue 8

www.prisonsociety.org ■ www.facebook.com/PrisonSociety

May 2018

Who's in Solitary Confinement?

By Anna Flagg, Alex Tatusian, & Christie Thompson, *The Marshall Project*

The data on how many prisoners are subjected to solitary confinement has long been elusive: many state corrections departments didn't log such information, and it was hard to track given the various euphemisms for the practice. A new report from Yale Law School and the Association of State Correctional Administrators released Wednesday tries to fill the gaps in what we know about the use of solitary confinement in the United States.

The Arthur Liman Public Interest Program at Yale first collected data from state and federal corrections officials in 2014 and again, in more detail, last year, taking what amounts to a comprehensive census on the use of solitary confinement in the U.S. Researchers found that in the fall of 2015, at least 67,442 U.S. prisoners were kept in some kind of restricted housing. (That includes prisoners held in "double-cell solitary," where they are locked down with another inmate.)

But perhaps most striking, researchers said, was how many states have come around to the idea of reducing the use of solitary confinement. "The official position of so many jurisdictions now is that they want less solitary," said Judith Resnik, the Arthur Liman Professor of Law at Yale Law School and a co-author of the report. "The people closest to running prisons are telling us this is not a wise thing to do for the safety and well-being of prisoners, or the safety of staff and the communities to which they'll return."

Despite the growing consensus, some states, like Louisiana, still put a significant portion of their prisoners in isolation (though Louisiana officials claim their use of solitary confinement is closer to 8 percent when including state inmates being housed in county jails). Corrections officials in Utah, which in 2015 held 14 percent of its inmates in segregation, told researchers they've since overhauled their policies on solitary confinement. Here is a look at some of the report's most interesting findings:

Percent of prison population in solitary confinement: Solitary was being used in every jurisdiction surveyed, but some depended on the practice more than others. These are the percentages of inmates who were kept in isolation at least 22 hours a day for 15 days or more. (Source: *Association of State Correctional Administrators Report*)

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From the Editor

During the past three months I've had the pleasure to sit down with the leadership of the Gray Panthers at Graterford and to meet with *Graterfriends* subscribers at Chester. In both conversations it became clear to me that we at the Prison Society have not updated our readers on substantial changes within our organization.

During the last five years, the Society's budget and staff have shrunk considerably. We are one-third the size of what we used to be. With only six people on staff, most of whom are part-time, we are small, but we are dedicated. It is this dedication that has enabled us to increase the frequency of *Graterfriends* in the last year. Two hard-working volunteers, Jennifer Stevens and Kaci Lewandowski, have been reading, typing, editing, and formatting your submissions and getting this publication out the door. They, along with our staff person Emily Cashell, are the publication's main editors.

We have also improved our support to individuals returning to Philadelphia by partnering with Broad Street Ministry, a large reentry service provider in Center City. Broad Street has a vast clothing closet and a mail service for returning citizens. They provide great assistance getting identification and public benefits. In some cases they can provide options for getting employment. Our partnership with Broad Street has allowed us to move to a smaller office. Family members and formerly incarcerated people are always welcome at our office. We exist to serve you and your community.

That said, we no longer run reentry programs at our office. Our primary focus is on improving support to incarcerated individuals and their families. We do this mainly through our network of volunteers, known in law as "Official Visitors." Prison Society volunteers are responsible for monitoring prison conditions and helping you and your family resolve issues. Currently there are 300 volunteers serving 22 of the 24 SCIs and 29 of the 62 county prisons. Each month, more than 200 individuals request our help in investigating and/or resolving issues you are facing. We deploy our volunteers to follow up with these requests. Some of our volunteers do a great job. Others are not sufficiently trained and supported to be optimally effective. As Executive Director I am committed to improving volunteer recruitment, training, and support so our volunteers can be more effective in helping you.

As many of you know, we also charter 10 buses a month for family in the Philadelphia region to visit loved ones at SCI's far from Philly. Tickets can be purchased at our office on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and are also available at our website: www.prisonssociety.org. Similar services are provided to families in the Pittsburgh region through Families Outside (see <https://wfspa.org/service/families-outside>). We are grateful to the Department of Corrections for subsidizing this service.

Sincerely,
Claire Shubik-Richards
Executive Director

GRATERFRIENDS

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We reserve the right to edit submissions. Original submissions **will not** be returned. We **will not** print anonymous letters. Allegations of misconduct **must** be documented and statistics should be supported by sources. Letters more than a page in length (200 words) **will not** be published in their entirety in Mailroom or Legal Chat, and may be considered for another column. All columns should be no more than 500 words, or two double-spaced pages.

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If you have a question about *Graterfriends*, please contact Emily Cashell, Executive Assistant at 215-564-4775 x1002 or ecashell@prisonssociety.org



Graterfriends – How it Started

By founder of Graterfriends, Joan Gauker

In the spring of 1981, I and other members of Prince of Peace Lutheran church in Plymouth Meeting, PA began participating weekly in a prison ministry at Graterford State Correctional Institution, near Collegeville. In the course of meeting with prisoners and listening to their various complaints, I felt they needed answers. So, I took their complaints to the Deputy Superintendent; who was in charge of volunteers. Nearly all the complaints I carried either were unfounded or could be rectified with very little effort once the administration knew of them. Then I took the deputy's responses back to the prisoners, who began to feel they had a voice.

As a result of my interaction between the administration and prisoners, and my involvement in a volunteer program, I was asked to become the institution's first Volunteer Coordinator. As such, my prison experience expanded to include all the volunteers, and I regularly had the ear of the administrators.

Prior to my association with Graterford, I had been a journalist and also the editor of many newsletters. So, it was natural for me to want to provide a newsletter for the prisoners and volunteers. It seemed important that lines of communication were open between those imprisoned and their keepers. When I asked permission to produce a prisoners' newsletter, I was told I could not involve the prisoners and it could not be distributed in the prison. So, I decided to seek outside support to develop a newsletter for the volunteers and for prisoners' families.

An outside-the-prison committee formed to help decide details of developing a prisoner advocacy publication. There was a lot of discussion about what it would contain, how it would be financed, and how it would be distributed. One of the concerns that I remember was: where would I find enough to write about? For me, that never was a question. From my writing experience, I knew

there would be a million stories in a prison – and, for nearly 25 years I never ran out of things to write about in our nine-times-a-year publication.

The name *Graterfriends* came to me one day as I drove to the Graterford prison. At that point, I expected the publication to only be for the outside Graterford community. When I bounced the name off others, it got positive responses. So, the name stuck, even when it was distributed far beyond that prison.

Today, I'm at a loss to recall how we overcame the prison administrator's restriction on the prisoners' involvement and the prohibition on distributing in the prison. But somehow we did.

Then, Graterford prisoners who moved to other prisons shared the publication or told others about it. Thus the mailing list began to have prisoners in addition to family, friends and volunteers. Ultimately, justice professionals requested their names be put on the mail list. Many of them became regular and hearty contributors.

At first the Graterford deputy wanted to read each issue before I could distribute it inside the prison. Eventually, the publication gained enough respect to dispense with this process. Here and there at other prisons we ran into problems of getting the publication to prisoners who had asked for it. Eventually conversations with those administrators solved the problem.

Unfortunately, most problems came from the correctional officers, who generally were not pleased with *Graterfriends*. In addition, the CO union got in the way of several COs who tried to help us or write an article for us. That was sad, because they had important things to share, too.

Early on, the outside committee formed a non-profit corporation to have a base for the publication and to be tax-exempt. We were funded entirely by contributions and the generosity of area corporations with in-house presses to print issues for us periodically. Most helpful was Aramark, who supported our mission for 17-years by printing one or more issues a year.

(Spotlight continued on page 4)

(Graterfriends, continued from page 3)

With Aramark's constant support and that of other corporations and individuals who contributed generously, we were able to distribute the newsletter free to Graterford prisoners and mail it freely to prisoners who requested it anywhere in Pennsylvania and across the nation for most of nearly 25 years. Initially, prisoners in Africa and England heard of it and asked to be added to our mail list. Eventually *Graterfriends* became an international publication.

Graterfriends' front page was an editorial by me, as managing editor. Each editorial dealt with a criminal justice/prisoner advocacy issue. Articles written by prisoners were prominent throughout each publication — as legal updates, letters, information or other points of interest. For nearly 25 years, this form of *Graterfriends* thrived.

Eventually, *Graterfriends* had a board of directors, an office in Norristown and a paid secretary. I was not paid, as it was the ministry I felt called to carry out. My contribution was my time and talent, and my concern for the imprisoned and their families. My husband, Richard, participated and completely supported me and the ministry. *Graterfriends*, the publication, became known and respected across the Pennsylvania penal/justice system.

Also, the corporation was called on to help out in many areas of penal/criminal justice advocacy. Board members spoke at state justice hearings and other places or groups. It, along with the volunteer program, organized and funded the Graterford Christmas Stocking Program — providing a Christmas stocking of goodies for each prisoner - and supported The Lobbyist Coalition, a coalition of prisoner groups, which was begun by former PA Attorney Ernie Preate and me.

When in 2002, I needed to step away from my prison ministry and the publication; the Pennsylvania Prison Society (PPS) graciously took over writing and distributing *Graterfriends*. In the past 16 years, PPS expanded the number of pages in each issue, and continued to keep the focus on prisoner advocacy. Also, PPS folks list me as *Graterfriends'* founder, which means a lot to me.

Thanks, PPS!

Blessings,
Joan



Mailroom

Give Senior Lifers a Second Chance By James D. Inge, Af-8705, SCI Graterford

Dear Senior Citizen Lifers:

On Wednesday, June 13th, 2018, families, friends and supporters will travel from Philadelphia to Harrisburg to rally at the Main Capitol Rotunda from 1:30 to 3:00, to express support for changes to Pennsylvania's parole laws.

We are asking legislators to change the laws to allow for the possibility of parole review for rehabilitated elderly lifers who have been incarcerated for 30 or more years.

The keynote speaker will be Philadelphia's new District Attorney, Larry Krasner. We ask you to encourage your loved ones and friends to get on the buses to join this rally. For more information and tickets, contact Andrea Braxton at Senior Lifers for a Second Chance at getonthebus@gmail.com. She is the host and assistant coordinator of the June rally.

Unsanitary Conditions

By Darren R. Gentilquore, GX-1572, SCI Bellefonte

SCI Benner Township Residential Treatment Unit housed on H Unit, has a maintenance issue that everyone agrees needs to be addressed, yet that has not been accomplished.

The upper tier shower drains are approximately an eighth to a quarter inch higher than the floor. This causes the dirty water to pool, generating unsanitary conditions which are including but not limited to mold. I filed a DC-804 official grievance, which surprisingly was denied.

Staff have ordered this problem be addressed. Sadly, repair has yet to be made.

If this disgusts you as much as it disgusts me, please forward copies of this article to our elected officials, as it does involve tax-payer dollars.

(Mailroom continued from page 4)

Aggregation Aggravation

By Tashaun Normand, LQ-9581, SCI Camp Hill

Did you ever wonder if the Parole Board had all the facts when they make a release decision? A friend recently saw the Board's hearing examiner and was told that all of his consecutively-imposed sentences are still "active status." He has sentences of 1.5-3 years, 1.5-3 years, and 2-4 years. The sentences are served consecutively with an effective date of 2010. He must serve sentence number 1 until it is expired, then he begins sentence number 2 until it is expired, etc.

The Pennsylvania courts hold that the purpose of a sentence aggregation is only to determine a minimum (parole eligibility) and a maximum (controlling) sentence. My friend's sentence aggregates to 5-10 years. His minimum/maximum was in 2015/2020. Sentence number 1 expired in 2013, and number 2 expired in 2016.

Can a reader with good arithmetic tell me why my friend's DC-16E sentence status document lists all three sentences in 2018 as "active status?" How can the parole board use expired sentences as the basis of a decision? Why doesn't the DOC update a DC-16E before the inmate is interviewed for parole? Does this "error" contribute to parole denials and prison overcrowding?

We are now accepting email submissions for Graterfriends.

If you are an inmate or family member of an inmate, please feel free to share your thoughts or a story with us electronically using a *ConnectNetwork* account.

Each submission through the account will cost 25 cents, and is allowed up to 2,000 characters a session.

If you would like to send in a submission, please send it to:

graterfriends@prisonsociety.org
Username: graterfriends



Think About It

Will it Go On?

By Joseph Nusbaum, GU-2437, SCI Bellefonte

I am a sexual predator spending my time incarcerated. I kept getting away with what I was doing with no issues, and it grew upon me like an addiction. I am writing this article because of one incident that I read in a magazine about a woman being groped by someone she knew.

She took this man to court and the judge found him guilty of assault and battery. This is just the beginning of a predator's planning, it is to see if he can make his next move. The women that I kissed and groped said "don't, or no" but I did not get caught, so I continued and planned another assault.

Many men and women see it when it hurts another person, so they apologize for their behaviors and all is forgiven.

The problem with being forgiven is that many men or women will seek another victim since they feel like they have gotten away with it the first time. It becomes for what some may call an addiction. (It is not an addiction).

Groping someone should hold the same consequences as carrying a gun without a license and doing something without permission from the person involved or the law.

Those of us who have gotten away with it, such as myself, tend not to stop but instead become worse over time. It may not be the same encounter or behavior, but it can truly become a disaster.

To those who got away: I hope you can stop for one second and empathize with the pain or suffering your victim feels; this does not necessarily need to be sexual either, could be robbery, threatening, etc. If you feel like you might behave in such a negative behavior, realize it, do not ignore it. Talk to someone or make a confidential phone call to someone who can help you in that moment.

(Think About It continued on page 7)



Our Voices

Keep Hope Alive

By Tequilla Fields, #OK-2327, SCI Cambridge Springs

After being at SCI Muncy for 12 years and then being transferred to SCI Cambridge Springs, I have come to realize how dedicated, committed and powerful the women that have served long terms really are.

Recently, the Muncy Inmate Organization has organized a new program called “Sisters,” and I want to congratulate those that did the hard work that needed to be done and for staying in the fight for positive transformation for or of women in the DOC.

I would like to convey how proud and honored I am that I have had the opportunity to have lived with these sisters for almost 12 years that are still fighting, organizing, and getting the word out to others for our freedom.

Since coming here to SCI Cambridge Springs, I have reconnected with some of the lifers like Kim Joynes and Avis Lee, who have continued their fight that started at Muncy. The struggle is real, and the fight is fierce, but I know that with the knowledge of the women lifers here, we can begin to see changes come to Cambridge Springs. But this cannot be done without the support of **all of us**.

United and not separated! This is not a time for us to have a mindset of individualism. Bill 135 and SB 943 effect not just me as an individual, but us as a collective. When I fight for freedom, it is for all. The call is out. Write state representatives, get family members involved, do something to be a part of this movement. Change is coming ladies, don't miss the move.

Virtual Life Sentences

By Frederick Page, BU-2238, SCI Graterford

I will describe my situation as an example of the problem of Virtual Life Sentences: after a jury trial, I received a sentence of 42 ½ to 102 years for 17 petty burglaries netting what was said to be no more than \$50. I have a record of non-violent crimes and am in the 30th year of my sentence. If I live past the remainder of my minimum sentence, I will be 72 or 73.

At my reconsideration hearing, the District Attorney told my judge that “the Commonwealth did not mean for this man to get that kind of sentence.” The judge replied, “What kind of sentence did you have in mind?” The DA asked for 20 to 40, my lawyer suggested 10 to 20. The judge urged them to stop debating, saying “He is going to get the sentence. I have hundreds of guys upstate that have appeals against me. They go nowhere.”

Hence, I have been attempting to galvanize support for people eligible for parole but serving excessive sentences resulting in Death by Incarceration. This excessive sentencing is a gross violation of the Eighth Amendment which prohibits “cruel and unusual punishments.”

Inmates with Virtual Life Sentences are not afforded any mercy other than if they live long enough to make parole. Our only hope is parole; sentence modification laws close the door on any chance of reconsideration ten days after sentencing.

Some lifers have had their sentences commuted (278 before 1978 and a few between 1981 and 2018). However, people serving Virtual Life Sentences have not once received commutation during the last 40 years, even when many have shown that they are fully rehabilitated.

I pray that this brief description of the problem leads to a greater conversation and stronger advocacy for these inmates. I am willing to dedicate my time to criminal justice reform, to help those who deserve mercy.

(Our Voices, continued from page 6)

Victim Letters

By Kevin Umpleby, MW-6644, SCI Rockview

For many of us, once our crime is over we wait for the sentence to be over; then we are done and quick to forget.

One thing I have learned during this sentence is empathy, and the fact that, for the victims, it never ends. Psychological damage can be worse than the physical and financial damage, and it won't be forgotten. The damage also reaches beyond our direct victims. We hurt their family and friends, as well as our family and friends.

All of us say we would do anything to protect and support our children and family, so why do we do the opposite, and hurt them with the choices we make that lead us to incarceration?

The majority of us apologized, either verbally or in writing, at our sentencing. The victims may not have even been there.

There is the Office of Victim Advocate (OVA) for us to write our apology letters to our victims. We get no favor with our parole, but it gives us personal growth. It also gives our victims the opportunity to get the letters, and know that we are sorry and regretful for what we did. It ensures them that we are doing something to change that it won't happen again.

For many, it offers a sense of peace. If you truly are remorseful for whatever crime you chose to commit, I highly suggest writing an apology letter to your victim and sending it to the OVA Inmate Apology Bank.

*Office of Victim Advocate
1101 South Front Street, Suite 5200
Harrisburg, PA 17104*

**Want to subscribe to
Graterfriends?**

**See the order form on
page 24.**

(Think About It continued from page 5)

When Will it Stop?

By Thomas A. O'Neal, JX-9230, SCI Frackville

Most of my life I have struggled with drugs and alcohol. My drug addiction is what led me to commit my crime that got me my state sentence. When I was put on parole in 2012, I continued my drug use and received violation upon violation due to my usage. Three years ago while coming down from parole, I finally overcame my addiction.

One day a switch flicked and I realized what drugs were doing to my life. I then turned myself in to get my time over with so I could move on with my life. I was sick of going to prison because of drugs. I had met an amazing woman, made amends with my family and had a great job. When I got out, I went back home to my fiancé and back to my job.

One night my fiancé and I went out to dinner at a local restaurant, and while there, she said the couple who was seated next to us had contacted her online, and requested she meet them for a sexual encounter. I turned to them in that moment and told them to stay away from her.

Little did I know, they were correctional officers at the closest state prison. Six days later state parole was at my door arresting me. This man went to the parole office and wrote a statement accusing me of threatening him and said that I was at a bar drinking. He used his power to lie and put me back into prison. So, here I sit in a state prison yet again for a violation that I did not commit. I now lost my job and my family is struggling without me at home.

For once in over 12 years I was doing good in my life, but because of this man's lies and abuse of power, I have lost everything. Once they sign a statement, parole will throw you into prison with no questions asked. This madness won't stop until I reach my max out date. Our parole system seems like it is designed for us to fall rather than succeed.

The reason I say that moment is because your mind will always hold onto the moment that you got away with it. I have been incarcerated for 10 years and I am beginning to realize why I am here.

Because I got away with it.



Time to Time-Bar the Time-Bar Rule

*By George Rahsaan Brooks, AP-4884,
SCI Coal Township*

In the recent past (2016 session), State Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, introduced legislation to increase Pennsylvania's "Time Bar" provision from 60 days to one year. Resistance has come from the Pennsylvania District Attorney's Association (PDAS). PDAS Executive Director Richard Long said that increasing the time bar to one year "would open up the window for frivolous claims by prisoners." However, there is no evidence of this happening when the time bar was increased to one year at the federal level (The Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act).

When Eric Riddick filed a post-conviction petition due to newly discovered evidence, his petition was refused by the Pennsylvania Superior Court because he filed it after 60-day filing period. Two Superior Court judges who agreed that he had missed the deadline noted that the system was flawed if it kept innocent men in prison because of that deadline.

More than half of the states (28) have no time limit on filing a post-conviction (relief?) petition based on withheld or newly presented evidence. Pennsylvania's current law is one of the nation's most stringent, still requires new evidence to be presented to the Court within 60 days (unless it is DNA evidence). Senator Greenleaf's argument is simple, "It often takes years to construct a solid case, and given that the persons involved are often incarcerated with no attorney active working on their case, it makes complying with the rule impossible.

There are no paralegals in Pennsylvania prisons to help inmates understand the law or assist them in filing petitions. Inmate law clerks are prohibited from assisting prisoners with their legal work. Inmate counselors and unit managers do not have the expertise to assist inmates with their legal cases, nor are they required to assist them. At

SCI Coal Township, prisoners are only permitted to go to the law library for two two-hour periods per week, unless they have a court order. Even then, they are only given another two-hour period per week.

As any intelligent person can see, it is next to impossible for a Pennsylvania inmate to file a post-conviction petition about new or withheld evidence within 60 days.

State Senator Greenleaf has re-introduced the bill (now SB 915) proposing extension of the time period from 60 days to one year. The bill will allow the filing of a post-conviction petition a year after unearthing significant evidence that was not discovered or not disclosed earlier (at time of trial).

Too many prisoners who were wrongfully convicted or completely innocent are wasting away in prison because they failed to file evidence within 60 days.

Prisoners like Mr. Riddick and me are calling on all public officials, friends, family members, supporters, faith-based groups, and organizations advocating for prisoner rights, civil rights, and human rights to see the wisdom in extending the 60-day limit to one year. We are also asking supporters to ask their district attorney if they support the proposed extension and if not, ask them if they fear it will cause a flood of frivolous post-conviction petitions. If the answer is yes, please vote them out of office! It is time to time bar the time bar provision in Pennsylvania!

Please remember that any submissions we receive will NOT be published without permission to print and a note stating that you are the original author.

If we receive a submission without either of these two requirements, we will not print it.

Original submissions will not be returned.

Thank you.

Department of Corrections Policy:
Timberland Boots, Rocky Boots

As of April 20, 2018, we received several letters from concerned inmates about the **Department of Correction's new policy regarding Timberland & Rocky boots**. We asked the DOC to respond to the main areas of concern these letters raised; below are the main areas of concern (**bolded**) and the response from the DOC (*in italics*):

The boots were nearly \$100 brand new from the commissary, and refunds are not being offered. We can ship them home to family at own cost. This is a problem for lifers who will never be going home & able to use them, and inmates that don't have the money to ship them home.

- (a) *Inmates will be reimbursed for their shipping costs by their facility.*
- (b) *Inmate boot orders that were placed prior to the suspension of boot sales on February 21, 2018 and that have not been received/issued should be returned to the vendor upon receipt. The inmate will receive a full refund for the cost of the boots.*

If we are in possession of boots after May 11th, we will receive a write up for being in possession of contraband.

It has not been confirmed or denied whether inmates will receive misconducts for owning Timberland or Rocky Boots after May 11th. However, it should be noted that boot sales were halted on February 21st and all Inmates were notified by March 26th of the impending change. Inmates can mail the boots home, arrange to give the boots to a visitor up until 06/01/2018, donate the boots to a local organization, or relinquish the boots to their facility. Inmates who choose to mail the boots home will be reimbursed for the cost of mailing. Inmates who are being released (parole, max outs) by 09/01/2018 can have their boots held in Receiving/Discharge which they will receive upon release. The DOC is working to give all inmates ample choices and time to adjust during this period of change.

The policy is punitive and retaliatory.

The policy is to ensure the continued safety of all inmates. The state issued boots have been preapproved by the Central Office Security Division.

Inmates that work in the maintenance departments see it as a safety concern. One inmate cited an incident where he had a manhole cover dropped on his foot and was told by medical that if he didn't have his Timberland boots on, he would have broken his entire foot. After that, plumbing supervisors would not let inmates work if they were not wearing Timberland boots.

AND

Inmates located in areas that are likely to receive more snow (ie. Albion, Somerset) are concerned about lack of proper weather resistant footwear. One inmate stated that the state issue boots they are offering are not warm, therefore not appropriate for winter wear.

AND

The issued boots are ill-fitting and cause inmates foot problems.

AND

The sneakers that are available in commissary are not appropriate for many work assignments and for inclement weather.

The majority of inmates have regularly worn the state issued boots. The state issued boots are handcrafted from genuine leather to provide comfort and extended wear. These high-top work boots are doubled stitched with a round toe and are created to fit the needs of all inmates. These boots have been pre-approved by the Central Office Security Division to ensure the comfort, protection, and security of all inmates.

What about those inmates that wear the heavy boots for medical reasons?

The PADOE takes the health and wellness of all inmates seriously. Inmates that state issue boots are unavailable to through health reasons or sizing concerns and have been issued a boot or walking

(DOC Policy, continued on page 13)



Report from Nicole Sloane, Esq. Criminal Defense Attorney

Erie Judge Orders Medical Care for Albion Inmate

“When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?” The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”
Matthew 25:39-40.

In September of 2016, Dennis McKeithan, an inmate incarcerated at SCI Albion, woke up to find he had developed shingles.

As the Commonwealth Court informed in its October, 2017 opinion, “his [McKeithan’s] face was swollen to the extreme, his skin had busted open, and the skin was off his face. His face was now the pink [sic] under skin. His right eye was swollen completely closed, and the skin all around his eye was busted open. His nose on the right inside bridge was swollen, bruised.” *McKeithan v. Clark*, 2017 Pa. Commw. Unpub. LEXIS 732, 133 C.D. 2017 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2017). McKeithan was diagnosed by an emergency room physician with Shingles and was provided a topical ointment. The ointment lasted only eight days and was never refilled.

In the following months, McKeithan continued to experience a rash and pain and therefore requested further examination. The only medical evaluations done on McKeithan were by “peering through the window of his cell door.” Despite an ongoing rash and eye pain, McKeithan was never given an eye examination.

The SCI Albion physician repeatedly told McKeithan that nothing was wrong and there was no treatment for Shingles. *(It is important to note that treatments for Shingles include pain relief and antiviral medications such as acyclovir or valacyclovir. A chickenpox vaccine in childhood or a shingles vaccine as an adult may minimize the risk of developing Shingles. Dietary changes and exercise may help decrease the frequency of outbreaks. Shingles in the area around or near the eyes may cause scarring and vision loss.)*

On January 4, 2017, McKeithan filed a Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus alleging cruel and unusual conditions or confinement. McKeithan asked for emergency injunctive relief arguing that corrections administration and staff had failed to provide adequate treatment for his Shingles.

Erie Common Pleas Court Judge John Garhart considered McKeithan’s petition. Taking into account the severity of McKeithan’s medical condition and the potential for vision loss should the Shingles continue untreated, Judge Garhart ordered Superintendent Michael Clark and the respondent physician to show cause why McKeithan was not entitled to relief. Judge Garhart scheduled a hearing during which both the Department of Corrections physician and McKeithan testified.

After hearing testimony, Judge Garhart found that McKeithan had not been adequately treated at SCI Albion and ordered that he be examined by both an independent doctor of internal medicine and an independent ophthalmologist.

According to the Department of Corrections in subsequent legal filings, it complied with Judge Garhart’s order so as “to avoid a finding of contempt.” Superintendent Clark and the Respondent physician nevertheless appealed.

Writing for the Commonwealth Court, Senior Judge Dan Pellegrini recognized that Superintendent Clark and the respondent physician’s contention on appeal was that Judge Garhart had abused his discretion when he found deliberate indifference was established because Petitioner received inadequate medical care.

The Commonwealth Court dismissed the appeal finding that the appeal was moot since the Respondents complied with Judge Garhart’s orders.

Report from Robert Cicchinelli Pennsylvania Prison Society Board Member & Policy Subcommittee on Sex Offense Issues Chair

Pennsylvania's Sex Offender Registration Law Has Been Amended

In their decision in *Commonwealth v. Muniz*, 47 164 A.3d 1189 (Pa., July 19, 2017), the PA Supreme Court found SORNA to be punitive. Therefore, the SORNA registration scheme could not be applied retroactively to those whose crimes were committed before December 20, 2012.

The Commonwealth unsuccessfully petitioned the Supreme Court of the United States for review, and now the legislature has passed HB 631 to comply with the *Muniz* decision. On February 21st, Governor Wolf signed it into law as Act 10 of 2018. The State Police quickly removed approximately 3,000 individuals from the registry and continue to reclassify those who remain on it.

Registrants are now divided into two groups: those whose crimes were either before or after December 20, 2012. For those whose crimes were on or after that date, there will be a few positive changes. Specifically, after three years of compliance with the law, your duty to appear in-person will become annual rather than semi-annual or quarterly. Also, there will be a telephone process for submitting changes to registry information. The effect is to reduce the number of times you have to appear in-person.

For those whose crimes predate December 20, 2012, the new law is very similar to Megan's Law II, which took effect on May 10, 2000. **This law is retroactive to anyone who was required to register under Megan's Law I, II or III unless their ten year term had been satisfied.** There are only five predicate offenses that mandate lifetime registration: rape, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse (IDSI), sexual assault, aggravated indecent assault, and incest where the victim is under age 12. Kidnapping, indecent assault, sexual abuse of children, unlawful contact, sexual exploitation and incest where the minor is over age 12 will be ten-year offenses, as will charges of prostitution and obscenity involving minors. For cases after January 26, 2005, luring a child and institutional sexual assault will also be

ten-year offenses.

The proposed law makes no mention of the Supreme Court decisions in *A. S. v. State Police* or *Lutz Morrison*, but convictions for two or more offenses are not being used to enhance the term of registration unless the convictions were the result of reoffending after punishment for the first crime.

Individuals whose crimes were before December 20, 2012 and whose crimes would revert to ten-year offenses must complete their ten-year period with credit for all time on the registry (and out of custody) as of the date the law takes effect.

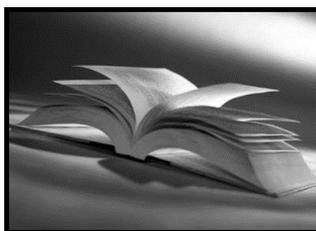
The proposed law also offers relief from the registry after 25 years through a court process. This is especially important for those who remain in Tier III or lifetime registration, including those declared to be SVPs and SVDCs. **Act 10 does not reverse or modify any prior Sexually Violent Predator (SVP) or Sexually Violent Delinquent Children (SVDC) determinations.**

There is no need to file in court to obtain the relief contained in this act. Once the State Police have completed their work, anyone who feels he or she should have had their responsibility reduced or terminated should retain counsel to file the appropriate petition. The State Police have been given 90 days to notify everyone of their obligations. We're happy to report that many prisoners who filed PCRA's attacking their convictions under § 4915.1 for failure to provide registry information have been released. The Superior Court recently decided in *Com. v. Murphy*, 541 MDA 2017 that the *Muniz* decision does not justify a waiver of the PCRA timeliness rules.

We continue to follow this evolving issue. If you have questions, please write to us and we will do our best to answer them.

Editors Note: *This column is being offered for general information as the opinion of the writer and should not be considered legal advice.*

We encourage the reader to seek the advice of competent legal counsel.



Literary Corner

Questions of Reason

By John Griffin, AM-8535, SCI Graterford

Who will answer these questions for us?
Who will solve the problems?
Are there any men or women of courage?
Anyone to lend a hand, or perhaps a voice of
common reasoning?

Who will speak for the prisoner?
The rejected and despised, never deserving, but
always generalized.

Will anyone scratch the surface and peek through
the wall?
Look into the faces of those who struggle against
all odds to redeem themselves.
To stand as corrected individuals,
Before their families, communities, and society, as
a whole.

But, for their efforts, receive only looks of
condemnation,
From the public's jaundiced eye.
Who will challenge these politicians that use the
necks of prisoners as podiums,
To bellow out their one-liners as campaign
speeches:

"I'll pull the switch, throw away the key, I'll build
new prisons where coal mines used to be."

Never mind that the money they'll use will come
from inner city schools,
And the guards they'll employ from schools in
Frackville, Coal Township, and Mahanoy.
Never mind that those new prisons built today,
will house our youth not yet born. Creating a
future for others, while pounding that of our own.
Never mind, that those locked away for over 15
and 20 years,
Are made culpable for the crimes committed by the
youth of today...never mind, never mind.

Will common sense ever prevail?
Will the taxpayer realize that there are no
dividends, no returns on their investments?

That prisons have become big businesses whose
profits come from the suffering of human beings,
And the longer they are confined,
The blacker the bottom line.

*Editor's Note: We extend our sincerest apologies to
the Mr. Griffin, the author of "Questions of Reason,"
for our editing mistake in the December 2017 issue
of Graterfriends. The submission has been
republished to it's original format. Thank you!*

Misery Mountain

By Philip Lloyd, Clear Brook, VA

Up on a hill so very high
It appears to reach the sky,
Half a mile above sea level it does sit,
Like the clouds took a massive shit.

In West Virginia this place is Bruceton Mills
Atop a hill with no frills or thrills,
In the midst of nowhere buildings were built,
Much blood, sweat and tears were also spilt.

"For what reason?" the question was asked
To put so many workers to this task,
The government was plannin' and countin'
To build a USP on this "Misery Mountain."

The prison on a hill so aptly called
For no one to see, it is entirely walled!
Brimming with towers and razor wires,
It is filled with inmates, and all are liars!

The weather here is God-forsaken,
So cold one moment, it has you shakin',
The next the heat has you sweating,
Changes so much, the C.O.'s are fretting.

Asking "when will inmate tempers burst?
Which group will be put on lockdown first?"
That's because the weather is so erratic,
It turns the calmest soul into a fanatic.

The wildlife of turkey, skunk and deer,
Run when the constant cold wind draws near,
Bringing the fog, heat and snow this way
Sometimes all in a single, cursed day!

Such is the life on this blustery hill,
It tries even the stoutest man's will.
Whether you have been here one day or a score,
You will want to come back here...NEVERMORE!

*Editor's Note: USP stands for United States
Penitentiary*

(Literary Corner continued from page 12)

That Big Gray Wall

By Dennis S. McKeithan, BB-2253, SCI Houtzdale

Looking out the window across from the cell,
Which I occupy here in hell,
All I can see is a great, big gray wall.

Tonight I listen to the silent cries of those around
me,
Some have lost their spirits, many have lost their
minds.

Yet some are as strong as that big gray wall.

I listen to the pains of a man down the tier,
As he talks about his loss, his hopes and dreams,
Yet knowing he is serving life, he speaks with
little energy,

As if, he's only dreaming.

I listen to the guy next door,
As he expresses anger to the invisible woman in
his cell.
Who has hurt him, deserted him, and destroyed
his reality.

Then I see the image of the man in the mirror,
Me,
Who is serving 100 years, and 3 in solitary.

I am sitting back, listening, reading, writing,
Developing the mind, that I know is my strongest
weapon in this war.
I face my pains, accept my loss, and meet my
challenges,

Without fear or hesitation.

I refuse to surrender my soul, refuse to surrender
my mind,
So I go on, day in, day out – building, struggling
and growing,

As tall and as strong, as that big gray wall.

(Solitary, Continued from front page)

Race and Solitary Confinement: Demographic data from the new survey shows that on average, prisoners of color were slightly overrepresented in solitary confinement when compared with the overall prison population. But in some states, this

disparity is particularly stark. In California state prisons, Hispanic men make up 42 percent of male prisoners, but 86 percent of male prisoners in restricted housing. In general, white inmates are underrepresented in solitary compared with the prison as a whole. Black inmates in many states make up a greater percentage of solitary confinement occupants. (Source: Association of State Correctional Administrators Report)

Time Spent in Solitary: The length of time prisoners spend in solitary confinement also varies greatly from state to state. The largest portion of inmates — 29 percent — were there for one to three months. But nearly 3,000 prisoners across the country have been in solitary confinement for six years or longer. More than half of them are in Texas. (Source: Association of State Correctional Administrators Report)

Editor's Note: Thanks to the Marshall Project for letting us include this article. For graphics which provide more detailed information, see the original article at www.themarshallproject.org. The Marshall Project is a nonprofit news organization covering the U.S. criminal justice system. Sign up for their newsletter, or follow The Marshall Project on Facebook or Twitter.

(DOC Policy, continued from page 9)

shoe in place of the standard issue state brown boots may retain those issued boot/shoes unless the boots are Timberland or Rocky Boots. If they are a Timberland or Rocky Boots, they will be replaced with a security-approved shoe or boot. Inmates who feel they cannot wear the state issued boot for a health reason should speak with their physician. The health department and commissary offers orthopedic inserts and other footwear options for inmates who qualify for them. State issued boots will continue to be issued inside the facility. Facilities that require a state-issued boot size that is not currently provided will contact CI for and approved replacement. CI, along with the Central Office Security Division, will review and approve multiple boots/shoes that will be available as an acceptable replacement for these cases. Because manufacturers and shoe styles change, CI is working to improve their footwear every day.

Editor's note: Please know that we at the Prison Society will continue to work with the DOC to bring you updates on this policy as they become available.



Legislative Highlights

*Edited by Nicole Sloane, Criminal Defense Attorney &
Dwayne Heckert, Legislative Liaison for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections*

Several current laws are listed below. Note that this list has new and moving legislation. The bills are current and updated as of 4/25/18.

Bill & Printer No.	Description	Prime Sponsor	Action	Position
SB 62 PN 43	An Act amending Titles 23 (Domestic Relations), 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and 44 (Law and Justice) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, provides additional reasons to avoid termination of parental rights for incarcerated parents.	Sen. Stewart J. Greenleaf (R) -Bucks (part) & Montgomery (part) Counties	Passed Senate Judiciary 1/24/17; Tabled in the full Senate 3/22/17. On hold on the Senate table.	Support
SB 121 PN 104	An Act amending Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in State intermediate punishment, amends addicted incarcerated offender treatment to including gambling addictions in addition to drug and alcohol.	Sen. Vincent J. Hughes (D) -Montgomery (part) & Philadelphia (part) Counties	Passed Senate Judiciary 5/9/17; On the Senate Floor for first consideration as of 5/9/17, but on hold on Senate Table.	Support
HB 135 PN 1268	Gives Board discretion to parole prisoners who were sentenced to life after 15 years of imprisonment.	Rep. Jason Dawkins (D)	Referred to House Judiciary 4/7/17.	Support
SB 1011 PN 1402	Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, providing for rights of victims of crime. Allows victims to refuse interviews, depositions and other discovery requests; further reduces defendants due process protections.	Sen. Guy Reschenthaler (R)	Reported as committed from Senate Judiciary 01/20/18 <i>Note: Companion bill in the House is HB 1993, Rep. Sheryl Delozier.</i> Re-referred to appropriations 1/31/18. Referred to Judiciary 3/26/18.	Oppose
SB 1071	Provides for automatic parole without a hearing for short sentence offenders once they reach their minimum sentence. In order to be eligible, the offender cannot have committed violent offenses, gun offenses, high-volume drug delivery offenses, certain sexual offenses, or misconduct while in prison. Streamlines placement of appropriate offenders in drug treatment in state prison. Successful completion of the program leads to an earlier release from prison. Establishes clearer guidelines for probation conditions to determine when violators should return to jail or prison.	Sen. Stewart J. Greenleaf (R) -Bucks (part) & Montgomery (part) Counties	Passed the Senate unanimously 4/25/18.	Support



Legislative Highlights

*Edited by Nicole Sloane, Criminal Defense Attorney &
Dwayne Heckert, Legislative Liaison for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections*

Bill & Printer No.	Description	Prime Sponsor	Action	Position
SB 522 PN 875	An Act amending Titles 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) and 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes Merger Bill. The consolidation of the Department of Corrections DOC and the Board of Probation and Parole BPP into the Department of Criminal Justice will increase cost savings, decrease overlapping functions, and increase efficiencies. The BPP will maintain independent decision making and Corrections will oversee agents supervising parolees	Sen. Stewart J. Greenleaf (R) -Bucks (part) & Montgomery (part) Counties	Passed Senate Judiciary, 3/16/17; Passed Appropriations 5/8/17. Moved through the Senate 5/24/17 (38-12). Referred to House Judiciary 5/25/17.	Incorporated into Fiscal Year 2017-18 budget
SB 523 PN 867	An Act amending the act of November 24, 1998 (P.L.882, No.111), known as the Crime Victims Act, Merger Bill. An Act amending the act of November 24, 1998 (P.L.882, No. 111), known as the Crime Victims Act; further advancing the merger of the DOC and the BPP. Provides for the Office of Crime Victims and costs of offender supervision programs.	Sen. Stewart J. Greenleaf (R) -Bucks (part) & Montgomery (part) Counties	Passed Senate Judiciary, 3/16/17; Passed Appropriations 5/8/17. Moved through the Senate 5/24/17 (48-2). In House Judiciary 5/25/17.	Incorporated into Fiscal Year 2017-18 budget
SB 529 HB 1419	An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, Clean Slate Clean Slate calls for automatic sealing of most non-violent misdemeanor convictions for individuals who have remained conviction free for at least 10 years. It would also automatically seal records of arrests that do not lead to convictions. It includes a provision for employer immunity for liability. Sealed records are hidden from the public, but still available to law enforcement. Clean Slate reduces the burden on the courts and expands on expungement legislation which passed in 2016.	Sen. Scott Wagner (R)- York (part) County	Passed Senate Judiciary 5/6/17. In Senate Appropriations Committee 6/12/17. On the Senate floor 6/20/17. Moved through the Senate on 6/28/17. In house Judiciary as of 6/29/17.	Support
HB 2005 PN 2873	Act establishing guideline & procedures governing investigations & interrogations of correctional officers by the Dept. of Corrections; authorizing civil suits; & providing for impact of collective bargaining agreements & summary suspensions. Corrections Officers under investigation would be given notice of interrogation and the name of the complainant 24 hours in advance of interrogation. Correctional Officers would not be required to submit to polygraph tests. Correctional Officers would be able to sue the complainant if the complaint is unsuccessful.	Rep. Karen Boback (R)	Introduced and referred to House Labor and Industry 01/9/2018.	Oppose



Legislative Highlights

*Edited by Nicole Sloane, Criminal Defense Attorney &
Dwayne Heckert, Legislative Liaison for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections*

Bill & Printer No.	Description	Prime Sponsor	Action	Position
SB 59 PN 0040	Amending Title 61 (Prisons and Parole) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, establishing the Prison Industry Enhancement Authority; providing for employment of prisoners by private industry and for subcontracts with correctional agencies; establishing guidelines for prisoner compensation; and providing for location of private sector prison industry.	Sen. Stewart Greenleaf (R)	Voted favorably from Senate Judiciary 01/24/17. Laid on the table 1/31/17.	Support
SB 357 PN 351	Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) to provide for the offense of aggravated assault by a person in the custody of law enforcement.	Sen. Robert Tomlinson (R)	Referred to Judiciary 2/15/17. First consideration 3/19/18. Second consideration 3/19/18. Re-referred to appropriations 3/27/18.	Support
SB 220 PN 0203	Amends the Administrative Code, in powers and duties of the Department of Corrections, providing for notice of public hearing for State Correctional Institution closure.	Sen. Wayne Fontana (D)	Introduced and referred to Senate Judiciary on 01/27/17	Oppose
SB 897 PN 1199	Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) Expands restitution for victims to include government agencies, non-profits and others.	Sen. Patrick Stefano (R)	Referred to Judiciary 11/25/17 Passed over in Senate Judiciary 01/30/18 Reported as committed 4/17/18 First consideration, 4/24/18	No position
SB 1070	Creates an Advisory Committee that will approve and finance the use of best practices in probation supervision statewide. Uses evidence-based practices to enable county probation departments to assess the unique risks and needs of each offender on probation.	Sen. Stewart Greenleaf (R)	Passed the Senate unanimously 4/25/18.	Support
SB 1072	Improves the flow of information to crime victims by prosecutors and police, as well as improving victim compensation for losses incurred during the crime. Changes the statute of limitations for making a victim compensation claim from 2 to 3 years, and allows for a good faith extension. Decreases the minimum loss for compensation from \$100 to \$50. Grants flexibility in the amount of emergency awards, adds eligibility for recipients of sexual violence and intimidation order, and adds crime scene clean-up for vehicles.	Sen. Stewart Greenleaf (R)	Passed the Senate unanimously 4/25/18.	Support.



Legislative Highlights

*Edited by Nicole Sloane, Criminal Defense Attorney &
Dwayne Heckert, Legislative Liaison for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections*

Bill & Printer No.	Description	Prime Sponsor	Action	Position
SB 922 PN 1236	Amends Title 35 (Health and Safety), Title 42, (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure and Title 61, (Prisons and Parole) to establish the Nonnarcotic Medication Substance Abuse Treatment Program. Providing court assessments for substance abuse.	Sen. Wayne Langerholc (R)	Referred to Judiciary 10/11/17. Reported as amended 3/27/18. First consideration 3/27/18.	Support
SB 961 PN 1585	Increases minimum sentence for homicide by vehicle DUI for repeat DUI offenders. Increases grading of some DUI offenses to felony. Increases for certain offenses with DUI if the driver is not licensed.	Sen. John Rafferty (R)	Passed Senate 4/18/18. In House; referred to Judiciary 4/19/18.	Oppose

Survey

Don't forget to fill out the survey on page 22!

We have read every response from those who have contributed, and we are taking them all into consideration for the future of *Graterfriends*. Our goal is to make this publication something that is both beneficial and enjoyable for you to receive and read.

We have reviewed and evaluated all responses—some that may work well with the system we have now, and some that may not. ALL responses are appreciated!

If you have anymore suggestions, keep them coming. We have kept the survey in the newsletter so we can hear from you!

Thank you again, and we look forward to hearing more of what you all have to say.

Resources

Life Without Parole (LWOP)

Women Lifers Resume Project of PA

PO Box 324
New Hope, PA 18938

Reconstruction, Inc

ATTN Fight for Lifers.
PO Box 7691
Philadelphia, PA 19101
215-223-8180

Juvenile Law Center

The Philadelphia Building
1315 Walnut Street, 4th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Decarcerate PA

Coalition to Abolish Death by Incarceration (CADBI)

PO Box 40764
Philadelphia, PA 19107
267-606-0324

The Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth

1319 F Street, NW Suite 303
Washington, DC 20004
202-289-4677

Inmate Authors

If you are a prisoner who has written a book, Prisons Foundation wants to publish it! There is no charge to publish or read your book. Your book will be scanned and published exactly as we receive it. Any language is acceptable. It may contain drawings and photos. For more information, contact:

Prisons Foundation
2512 Virginia Ave NW #58043
Washington, DC 20037

Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM)

FAMM, a D.C.-based sentencing reform organization, is working to fight mandatory minimums in Pennsylvania, but needs case examples to help convince lawmakers to support fair sentencing.

If you are serving a long mandatory sentence for a drug or gun offense, please send 1) your name, 2) contact information for yourself, 3) contact information for an outside friend or family member, 4) a brief description of your offense, and 5) your sentence (example: I received a 10-20-year mandatory minimum), to:

FAMM

Attn: Pennsylvania Stories
1100 H Street, NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005

Note: FAMM does not offer direct legal assistance and cannot respond to every letter received, but the organization will contact you by mail if they'd like to learn more about your case.

The Prison Society does not provide compensation for conditions in the Philadelphia Prison System.

It's a rumor.

Contrary to what you may have been told, no compensation is available from the Prison Society—or any other agency—for the individuals who have experienced poor conditions while housed in the Philadelphia Prison System.

For more information on previous class action suits, please contact the organization below.

The Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project
The Cast Iron Building
718 Arch Street, Suite 304 South
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Resources

State Officials

Governor Tom Wolf

Governor's Correspondence Office
508 Main Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
P | 717-787-3391
F | 717-772-8284

Attorney General Josh Shapiro

PO Box 22635
Philadelphia, PA 19110
P | 215-886-7376

Senator _____

Senate PO Box 203 ___ ___ *
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Representative _____

PO Box 202 ___ ___ *
Harrisburg, PA 17120

*If you know the three-digit district number for your Senator or Representative, add it to the PO Box number. If you do not know, information for Senators is available at www.pasen.gov; information on Representatives is available at www.house.state.pa.us.

*Editor's Note: *The three-digit district numbers are available at: www.PAsen.gov for senators and www.house.state.PA.us for representatives.*

DOC Officials

DOC Secretary John Wetzel

19020 Technology Parkway
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
P | 717-728-2573
W | www.cor.pa.gov
E | ra-crpdocsecretary@pa.gov

Prisoner Book Programs (these offer books on requested topics)

Book'Em

PO Box 71357
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Books to Prisoners

c/o Left Bank Bookstore
92 Pike Street Box A
Seattle, WA 98101

Ithaca College Books Thru Bars

c/o Ithaca College Library
Brooktondale, NY 14817

Books Through Bars

4722 Baltimore Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19143

Books Behind Bars

Prison Mindfulness Institute
PO Box 206
South Deerfield, MA 01373

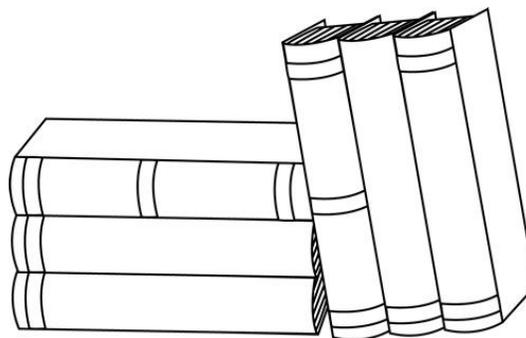
Prisoner Literature Project

c/o Bound Together Books
1369 Haight Street
San Francisco, CA 94117

Prison Book Program

c/o Lucy Parsons Center and Bookstore
1306 Hancock Street, Suite 100
Quincy, MA 02169

Also offers free list of prisoner resources.



Resources

PA Statewide Pro-Bono Services

Pittsburgh Pro-Bono Partnership

436 Seventh Avenue, 400 Koppers Building
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
P | 412-402-6677

Lawyer Referral Service

P | 412-261-5555 (Pittsburgh)
For help finding a lawyer if you are not eligible for pro bono due to income or nature of your crime.

Philly VIP

1500 Walnut Street, Suite 400
Philadelphia, PA 19102
P | 215-523-9550
Refers indigent individuals to volunteer lawyers, paralegals, and others who provide legal services free of charge.

National Pro-Bono Services

American Bar Association

W | <http://www.findlegalhelp.org>
Allows site-users to search for a list of resources available in their state, including pro-bono or inexpensive lawyers, help in dealing with lawyers, legal information, and self-help materials.

University of Virginia School of Law

P | 434-924-3883
E | probono@law.virginia.edu
W | www.law.virginia.edu/html/publicserv/probono.htm
Law students that perform pro-bono work.

Pro Bono Institute

1001 G Street NW, Suite 305 West
Washington, DC 20001
P | 202-729-6699
E | probono@probonoinst.org
W | <http://www.probonoinst.org>
A small non-profit organization at Georgetown University Law Center that administers projects that "support, guide, and inspire legal institutions to enhance access to justice." They do not provide direct legal services themselves. They do, however,

hold an annual seminar that focuses on pro bono legal work and the issues contained therein.

Justice Denied

W | <http://www.justicedenied.org/probono.htm>
Compilation of attorneys who take cases on a pro bono basis.

Prisoner's Rights

Coalition to Abolish Death by Incarceration

c/o Decarcerate PA
PO Box 40764
Philadelphia, PA 19107
P | 267-217-3372
W | www.decarceratePA.info
E | decarceratePA.pgh@gmail.com (Pittsburgh)
E | CADBIphilly@gmail.com (Philadelphia)
E | decarceratePA@gmail.com (Philadelphia)

PA Institutional Law Project: Philadelphia

The Cast Iron Building
718 Arch Street, Suite 304 South
Philadelphia, PA 19106
P | 215-925-2966 (Philadelphia)
F | 215-925-5337 (Philadelphia)
P | 570-523-1104 (Lewisburg)
P | 412-434-6175 (Pittsburgh)
W | www.pailp.org
E | alove@pailp.org

Prison Activist Resource Center

PO Box 70447
Oakland, CA 94612
P | 510-893-4648
W | www.prisonactivist.org/resources
E | info@prisonactivist.org

Announcements



On May 8, 2018, we will celebrate the impact of
The Pennsylvania Prison Society
at our 231st Annual Meeting!

Where: Eastern State Penitentiary
Historic Site
2027 Fairmount Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19130

When: 6:00 pm—8:30 pm

6:00 pm | Annual Members Meeting
7:00 pm | Cocktails & Buffet
7:30 pm | Awards & Program

For more information:
Call 215-910-4576 or
Email events@prisonsociety.org

We would like to inform our subscribers that our quarterly publication, *Correctional Forum*, has been **suspended**.

The staff here at the Prison Society are working on finding another publication that is as informative and respected as *Correctional Forum* was to take its place.

If you have any questions or concerns, please write to us at:

The Pennsylvania Prison Society
RE: *Correctional Forum*
230 S. Broad Street, Suite 605
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Or give us a call at
(215) 564-4775

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and continued support of the Prison Society.

**Were you...
...transferred?
...assigned a new state ID number?
Let us know!**

Remember, the Department of Corrections *does not* alert us when inmates are transferred or assigned a new number. So make sure you write to us so we can update our mailing list, and ensure quick delivery of your *Graterfriends*!

SURVEY: What's Your Opinion?

Please fill out this form and mail it back to us at our new location for future issues. We want to take your thoughts into consideration!

New Address: 230 South Broad Street, Suite 605, Phila, PA 19102

1) Would you like us to include statistics on prison populations and other facts?

Yes No

2) Would you like us to include a section on the latest technology?

Yes No

3) Would you like us to include profiles on organizations that assist prisoners?

Yes No

4) Would you like us to include book or movie reviews?

Yes No

5) On a scale of 1-10, how important is *Graterfriends* to you?

(1 being the most important, 10 being the least)

1___ 2___ 3___ 4___ 5___ 6___ 7___ 8___ 9___ 10___

6) What is the main reason you read *Graterfriends*? (Please rate 1-4; 1 being most important)

- A. To learn what other inmates are talking about _____
- B. For legal news and advice _____
- C. For the resources _____
- D. There's nothing else worth reading in my mailbox _____

7) What's Your Opinion:

How can we make *Graterfriends* a better publication? (Please print legibly)

Thank you to everyone who has answered already—we value your input!

We want you to help us make *Graterfriends* even better!

Transportation Services

What prisons do you visit?

We have buses to all Pennsylvania State Prisons except Camp Hill, Chester, Graterford, and Quehanna Boot Camp.

Who can travel?

Anyone can travel as long as he or she is on the inmates visitor list, including infants and children. **Please check with whomever you are visiting prior to purchasing a ticket to ensure that you are on his or her list.** You will not get a refund if you are unable to visit because you are not an approved visitor.

How can I pay for a ticket?

Cash, debit, or credit card in the office. There is a \$2 surcharge per ticket to use a credit card, online or over the phone.

How do I get a seat?

Can I mail in my payment?

Tickets can be purchased online, over the phone, in the office, or by mail. We only accept money order payments via postal mail. **Do not send cash in the mail.**

Send payments to:

Attn: Family Transportation
 Pennsylvania Prison Society
 230 South Broad Street, Suite 605
 Philadelphia, PA 19102

Please make money orders payable to: PA Prison Society at the address listed above.

When sending payments through the mail, please include your full name, prison you are visiting, and your telephone number. We may need to contact you.

Editors Note: For more information, contact Emily Cashell at: (215) 564-4775 x 1002 ecashell@prisonsociety.org, or visit www.Prisonsociety.org

2018 Family Transportation Schedule

DATE	DESTINATION
April 2, 2018	Laurel Highlands & Somerset
April 6, 2018	Greene
April 9, 2018	Forest
April 12, 2018	Benner & Rockview
April 12, 2018	Houtzdale
April 13, 2018	Albion
April 16, 2018	Cambridge Springs & Mercer
April 20, 2018	Fayette
April 20, 2018	Pine Grove
April 23, 2018	Dallas & Retreat
May 4, 2018	Greene
May 7, 2018	Laurel Highlands & Somerset
May 8, 2018	Muncy
May 11, 2018	Coal Township
May 11, 2018	Albion
May 14, 2018	Frackville & Mahanoy
May 14, 2018	Forest
May 18, 2018	Fayette
May 21, 2018	Huntingdon & Smithfield
May 26, 2018	Waymart
June 1, 2018	Greene
June 4, 2018	Laurel Highlands & Somerset
June 8, 2018	Albion
June 11, 2018	Forest
June 14, 2018	Benner & Rockview
June 14, 2018	Houtzdale
June 15, 2018	Fayette
June 15, 2018	Pine Grove
June 18, 2018	Cambridge Springs & Mercer
June 25, 2018	Dallas & Retreat

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May 2018

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