

# 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 7

[www.prisonersociety.org](http://www.prisonersociety.org) ■ [www.facebook.com/PrisonSociety](https://www.facebook.com/PrisonSociety)

February 2018

### Guilty Pleas: The Justice System's Trojan Horse

*By Jules Jette, EW-4679, SCI Houtzdale*

There are over 2.5 million people incarcerated in the United States. It is a fact that around 95 percent, both state and federal, or those who are incarcerated pled guilty. Interestingly, to a reduced sentence.

But, was it reduced, or was that the justice system's "Trojan Horse?"

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court repeatedly hold that plea-bargaining is critical to the working of the justice system. Look at the numbers, the time saved by the State or Federal Government using this process keeping the justice system swiftly moving along—most importantly saving time money: quantity over quality—light-speed to finality.

The plea-bargaining process is well underway a pre-arrest. A well-planned conspiracy beginning with the multiplicity of charges by the prosecutor in the indictment or arrest warrant.

Post-arrest, the whole justice system works as one: prosecutor, court, and defense counsel, all are committed to dispose of the case quickly and efficiently with a plea deal. The plea will be binding on you, not on the court.

Anyone who has ever demanded a trial, remembers the look on the counsel's face when you said you wanted to go to trial.

Counsel probably thought that you would be convicted of something if you went to trial. The reason counsel can confidently say the latter is with everyone else pleading guilty and the evidence evidently going unchallenged in their cases.

One thing is for sure—the only one doing more work is the new DA, Krasner in your case.

We have only ourselves to blame. We have made it too easy and any evidence the state claims to have is never put to the test. Something drastic must be done. We are no longer a society of martyrs. That era ended with MLK, Malcolm X, and the civil rights protests.

What if, one more time for history's sake, a majority came together and demanded a trial, reducing the previously-mentioned 95 percent to 25 percent? The justice system would grind to a halt.

Let's help the city's DA accomplish his election promise: "No pleas, take it to trial!"

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## From the Editor

Hello from Prison Society,

In my one year as Executive Director of the Society I have been awed by the heart, generosity, and compassion of Society Members.

This past month I had the pleasure to hear Kempis Songster testify at a Philadelphia City Council hearing and see Bobby Harris at a meeting where he spoke about his experience serving a life sentence.

Bobby and Kempis are both individuals who received life sentences as adolescence and who have recently returned to Philadelphia. They, like many others in their position, are fully committing themselves to advance the cause of parole eligibility for lifers. To meet them is to be moved and inspired.

Also, this past month, I learned of two individuals who were released from the Department of Corrections thanks to the assistance of Prison Society volunteers. Society Official Visitor and Board Member, Joan Porter, worked for two months with the family of an 81-year old, terminally-ill woman incarcerated at SCI Muncy to secure her release to a hospice care near her family's home.

Notices in this publication about changes to sentencing for specific sex offenses prompted an inmate at SCI Chester to file for petition for release. Seeing the merit of his case, the Court assigned him pro bono counsel and on January 18 he returned home. A group of Society volunteers, led by Official Visitor and Board Member Robert Cicchinelli are responsible for the outreach that led to this release.

Society members who are incarcerated, Society volunteers who help those on the inside, and the correctional employees who go above and beyond, all bring humanity to places where it can feel absent.

Every year the Society gives out three annual awards, including: Volunteer of the Year, Inmate of the Year, Correctional Employee of the Year

We are currently accepting nominations. Please write us with your nominations and a brief description of how the person you are nominating has demonstrated leadership and compassion.

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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# Think About It

## A Growing Problem

By Sarita Miller, OJ-3158, SCI Cambridge Springs

*"I wasn't addicted to drugs until I came to prison."*

These were the words spoken by a brave and honest young woman as she shared her testimony with other recovering addicts at a weekly AA meeting. She went on to describe the severe pain of withdrawal, and when she no longer wanted to take the psych medication.

Overly prescribed psych medication is becoming the new drug crazed addiction in the DOC institutions. These highly addictive drugs are being used to treat minor medical purposes, and a lot of inmates are taking them just to deal with their oppressive prison-living.

Like myself, most of us that are serving time are doing so because of our drug addictions. Coming into these prison walls can be a fresh start in life for some of us.

We must be responsible for ourselves, take time to look over the prison library and research the effects of these potentially mind-altering drugs. We can educate ourselves by going through the medical reference books that are usually available.

Trying to zone out of the reality of our circumstances of imprisonment is not the road to take. The difficulties of prison life will still be there the next day.

You cannot allow yourself to become a victim to the blind eye that DOC medical departments are becoming. You must protect yourself from the usage of these dangerous medications.

## True Words

By Kevin Umpleby, #MW-6644, SCI-Rockview

Addiction comes in many forms. Whether it's an addiction to a drug, alcohol, money and/or adrenaline, we all seek it by choice. Most of our crimes are related to our addiction in one way or another. When asked if we have a problem, we deny it either verbally or when taking our classifications tests when entering the DOC.

We've all heard about insanity being someone doing the same thing the same way expecting different results. So in order to sop our criminal/addictive cycle, we need to do something different and that, my brothers and sisters, is being honest. I recently completed the Therapeutic Community Program (TCP) at SCI-Rockview. Prior to coming over I heard that the TCP was criticized as practicing brainwashing and promoting snitching.

But the TCP knowledge/program/strategies/techniques, based on drug and alcohol addictions, can be applied to all other types of addictions. The "brainwashing" rumor is funny to me because, while I was in the program, I learned how to be a pro-social, productive member of the community who has a positive purpose in life.

I suppose that to those not ready for a positive life and future, that may be considered brainwashing.

As for calling it the "snitch program," the TCP teaches us how to be accountable for our own actions by allowing peers to make us aware of them.

In my opinion, the purpose is to teach us how to deal effectively with an urge or trigger so we don't return to prison, victimizing the public, our family, or our friends again.

I've always encouraged my peers to seek educational and therapeutic programs. I've asked, "What would it take to make our family proud of us again?" Let's make our words true again by showing the change, not just saying it.

*Editors Note: TCP = Therapeutic Community Program.*



## Mailroom

### Get on Board

*By Termaine Saulsbury, GP-3965, SCI Greene*

Tina Davis, House Representative of the Judiciary Committee, introduced House Bill 1581 which limits the use of solitary confinement in Pennsylvania prisons. It currently has thirteen sponsors.

This bill makes some sweeping changes to the current DOC policy in PA. Human Rights Coalition (HRC) plans to meet with sponsors to support house bill 1581, pushing for a hearing in Harrisburg and interject what we think should be added to “strengthen” this legislation.

If you want to support this bill with testimony, evidence, suggestions of important next steps or if you would like a copy of this bill please contact HRC by writing:

**ATTN HB 1581**  
**4134 Lancaster Avenue**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19104**

### Endlessly Seeking Legal Advice

*By Dan Peters, GF-5998, SCI Bellefonte*

In July of 2016, I was sentenced to a new state sentence although I was already serving a state sentence prior to this new one. My sentencing order from July states that my new sentence was to be ran concurrent to my old one. In November of 2017, I was seen by the parole board, where I learned that my sentencing judge did not have the authority to run a new sentence concurrent to my original one.

Under 61 PA. C.S. 6138 (a)(5). Because I am not an attorney, I had no idea that this type of sentence could happen. In January of 2018, I filed a P.C.R.A. after reading the Com. V. Zuber, 446 Pa, 453, 353, A.2d 441 (1976) and Kerak v. Pa Bd. Of Prob and Parole 406 C.D. 2015, 2016 WL 7976091 (Pa Cmwlt. Nov 210, 2016). My P.C.R.A. was dismissed as an ultimately P.C.R.A. petition. Is there any way for me to get back in the courts?

### Do the Math

*By James Bryant, KT-0632, SCI Mahanoy*

The PA DOC charges inmates \$17.50 for each 50-channel cable account, while inmates are paid only \$0.19 per hour for prison jobs.

The prices for Commissary items are high and are always going up, while inmate pay stays the same.

It is time for cable companies to provide TV service at a lower cost, just as phone calls became cheaper after public voices spoke up for inmates.

### Bed Space

*By Lorenzo Moore, #MA-0886, SCI Greene*

At SCI Greene, bed space is a problem in General Population (GP). When new guys come in, they often go straight to the hole (SHU) until there is bed space elsewhere. The staff also find GP bed space for new inmates by sending someone in GP to the SHU. There is now more room in RHU than in GP. So, no matter what the situation, you are likely to be sent to the hole (and this does not help you at your parole hearing). SCI-Greene has the lowest parole rate in the state; it seems the administration does not want anyone to leave this place. The Governor needs to look into this matter.

### Parole Denied

*By Lorenzo Moore, #MA-0886, SCI Greene*

I'm writing because of this parole situation here at SCI Greene. Nobody at Greene makes parole on their first time up. They “cook the books,” i.e., invent reasons why we cannot be released. They say we are a risk to the community at every parole hearing, sometimes four hearings in a row. With the closing of SCI Pittsburgh, many short-timers are going to SCI Greene, which was a long-term jail (a level 5 situation jail). They are not used to dealing with short-timers. So we short-timers are paying the price, getting hit after hit (1-4 year hits). I ask lawmakers, activists, and anyone else to please investigate the parole process at SCI Greene. We need help.



## Spotlight

### **Execute Capital Punishment**

*By James Bond, Retired Oncologist &  
Former PA Prison Society Official Visitor*

There is overwhelming evidence as to why the United States should abolish capital punishment. In 2014, Ex-President Jimmy Carter wrote in his book *Call to Action* that 143 nations have abolished capital punishment. The only nations in Europe, North, Central and South America that still execute its citizens are the United States, Belarus and Surinam.

In 2007, Nebraska became the 19th state to abolish the death penalty. The Michigan Law School has a registry of 1,728 exonerated folks who had been incarcerated for an average of 11 years for crimes they did not commit.

Since there is no fail-safe example of a way a jury can reach a verdict of first degree murder, there is an enormous danger of taking the life of an innocent person. Cameron Todd Willingham in Corsicana, TX was executed for the arson murder of his three children based on false evidence.

Over three years later the *Houston Chronicle*, with input from the *Washington Post*, detailed how Willingham's conviction was based on false testimony of a jailhouse snitch to benefit himself through a lesser sentence and the Prosecution Misconduct of two District Attorneys.

Middleweight boxer, Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, spent 19 years in prison. He was accused of murdering three white people in New Jersey, and convicted by an all-white jury, mostly on the testimony of two thieves who later recanted their stories. Following his release, he found injustice until he died in 2014 at the age of 76. Fortunately, he received life without parole instead of the death penalty.

To quote Jimmy Carter, "Perhaps the greatest argument against the death penalty is its extreme bias in its use against the poor, minorities, and those with diminished mental capacities.

Although homicide victims are six times more likely to be black than white, 77 percent of death penalty cases involve white victims."

In 2002, the Supreme Court banned capital punishment of the intellectually disabled and in 2005, adolescents under the age of 18 studies have shown it is not a deterrent.

Violent crime defined as murder, rape and armed robbery reached its peak in 1990 and has dropped remarkably since with 58 percent in Washington, DC, 70 percent in Dallas, 74 percent in Newark, and 75 percent in Los Angeles.

What caused the previous peak? An investigative report, Kevin Drum, from *Mother Jones* wrote, "The American real criminal element was lead." A HUD counselor, Rick Nevin, noted there was a link between lead exposure and juvenile delinquency. Also there is a marked fall in the IQ of children when exposed to lead. Lead is known to be toxic to brain neurons and causes shrinkage in the size of the frontal cortex responsible for judgement leading to antisocial behavior and adult violence. Ref. Adrien Raine 2013, *The Anatomy of Crime*, the Biological Roots of Crime.

Graphs of blood lead levels from 1937 to 1986 show it peaked about 23 years before the violent crime peak in 1990. The biggest source in the post-war years was not lead paint but leaded gas. In the 1920s, General Motors added tetraethyl lead to gasoline in order to prevent engine ping and knocking.

In 2000, Nevin concluded that if you add a lag time of 23 years, lead emissions from autos explained 90 percent in the variation of violent crime. In 2007, Nevin showed lead data curves peaking 20 years or so before violent crime; this fit astonishingly well in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Great Britain, Finland, Italy, and West Germany. During the 1970s and 1980s stringent Environmental Agency regulations led to less pollutants as did the catalytic converter.

Ending capital punishment means that some guilty of the most heinous crimes and serial killers will remain in prison for life.



### **The Juveniles Everyone Forgot**

*By Paul Ferguson, DF-0956, SCI Houtzdale*

Every time I turn my head a juvenile lifer is released from prison and I ask myself, “When will it be my turn?” I did not kill anyone. At the age of fifteen, I was convicted of two counts of criminal attempt homicide, and one count of burglary. I am currently serving a 30-60-year sentence, and that is after an appeal to get it down to that. The question I ask myself is “How is it that someone who killed someone will go home before me?”

The question at hand is, does not the science set forth in the following cases hold any weight for me? *Roper v. Simmons*, 543 U.S. 551 S. Ct. 1183, 161 L.Ed.2d 1 (2005), says that children differ from adults in their diminished culpability and greater prospects for reform, and that these distinctions diminish the penological justifications for sentencing youth to the harshest sentences, even when they commit a serious crime.

The fact still remains, that the science used for juvenile lifers should also apply to juveniles without life sentences. Have I not done enough in my twenty-two years of incarceration to show that I deserve an opportunity of release? I have not received a misconduct in almost fifteen years, I am the Treasurer of the inmate non-profit organization Journey for Change, and I facilitate multiple groups in the institution. Only a relatively small portion of adolescents who engage in illegal activity develop enriched patterns of problem behavior. I have fought both my conviction and sentence for twenty-two years, and all those years later, I am still sitting in a jail cell.

How can you sentence a child to a thirty year minimum for a non-killing offense, and in the same breath, sentence another child to a lesser sentence for killing someone? I am not the only juvenile suffering under a harsh sentence for a non-murder offense, but we are the juveniles everyone else forgot about. What happened to no child left behind?

### **Native American Circles in Prisons**

*By Rev. Bernie Ryan, O.N.P.,  
Walnutport, PA*

Since 1978, inmates have had the opportunity to practice Native American Circles in prisons. It was the American Indian Religious Freedom Act that guaranteed and protected this right under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Public Law 95-341 (August 1978). This Act gave Native American prisoners, and anyone else who choose to follow a Native-Natural Spiritual Pathway, the same rights given to other faith groups to practice their religion in prison.

Although some assume that there is only one set of religious beliefs and practices for Native Americans, there are actually more than 485 federally recognized Native Nations or Tribes in the United States. Therefore, whoever is chosen by the group or chaplain to perform a sacred rite or lead a Circle, please respect the way they do it.

Some items used in these practices include: a sweat lodge, a sacred pipe, a drum, a talking stick or feather, a medicine bag, tobacco, sweet grass, sage, and cedar, all of which help the practitioner connect to the Great Spirit and the tenets they follow. None of these sacred objects (aka spiritual tools) demonstrate a proven risk to the security of any correctional facility.

It is best that a qualified person facilitate the Circle. If not available, the group can elect one of the members to lead the ceremony. Every member of a Circle should have an opportunity to learn how to lead a Circle ceremony. Sometimes there are difficulties in managing a Circle. Some inmates try to: set up an undercover club, manipulate chaplains or others, or intimidate members or nonmembers. Such individuals need to be reminded that there is no hierarchy in a Circle. Everyone is equal because respect is the true foundation of all genuine leadership. We all lead by showing who we are, good or bad, by our example. Aho!

**(Our Voices *continued*)**

**Hell No!**

By Jerome Marshall, AV-5932, SCI Greene

Hell no, I am not alright! I am on death row, but that's not the point.

The point is: when the psychologists come around and ask all of us if we are alright, many of us say "Yes."

I have never met anyone on the row or in jail who was alright by the suffering effects of these inhumane prison conditions.

We inmates say it because of: either the stigma attached to saying we are not alright, or we are just trying to sound hard. We are also worried that if we state that we are not alright or show any signs of not being alright; that it can and will be used in Court against them. Sometimes even by their own pitiful attorneys, especially when the attorneys are incompetent, feel threatened and are challenged by many of their own clients.

So, because of this, so many of us say "We're alright."

The state knows this, is happy to hear it and actually wants us to say this, why? Why do they want you to say you are alright? Because here is the double-edged sword dilemma.

They want you to say you are alright, so they can argue that they are not torturing you, even though all the professional, academic, medical and psychological studies state that they are, especially when subjecting you to certain inhumane conditions.

When a psych comes around to ask us if we are okay and we brush them off with a, "yeah, yeah, get away from here," they write it down. Why? So, they can go back and say, "see he's okay, we asked him."

They will continually do it to both you and your neighbors, your nieces and nephews, uncles and aunts, mothers and fathers; because they are the only ones coming behind you.

As long as you say you're okay then it will be okay.

The question is, do you want to stop them from treating yours inhumanely, and put an end to certain treatment? Or do you say that you are alright and set it up for them to continuously do this to those who come next? Sell your family out or possibly, yourself out?

You now know this knowledge. Fight or flight. You do what you will with this.

Peace. Stay strong and keep the fight going.

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

**Submissions will not be returned.**

**Thank you.**

(Mailroom continued)

### **Uniting to End Over Incarceration**

*By Frederick Page, SCI Graterford, BU-2238*

The Gray Panthers of SCI Graterford are advocating the moral and ethical right as it relates to supporting release mechanisms for deserving elderly and senior incarcerated women and men through our “Aging out of Crime” initiative. Aging Out of Crime is supported by factual evidence based upon research throughout this nation that elderly women and men are less likely to recommit crime, should they be released.

The Gray Panthers here at Graterford are a coalition of senior citizens who advocate for criminal justice reforms, prison reforms, commutation reforms, sentencing reforms, parole reforms, legislative reforms, compassionate release, and medical parole. We advocate social change for seniors who are incarcerated.

Aging Out focuses on evidence based factual findings that women and men who come to prison at a young age, who have served for over 25 years or more. They are less like to recidivate should they be released after the age of 50 years or older. The Gray Panthers advocate especially for men and women who are geriatric and pose no threat should they be released.

We also took a survey of California’s Federal Court order from 2016 requiring the state to reduce its prison population. Inmates 60 years or older, who had served 25 years of their sentences, became eligible for parole. During its fiscal year of 2015-16, California presented 658 elderly parole hearings, resulting in 154 inmates being paroled. Just recently, Assembly Bill No. 1448, “Elderly Parole Program” was approved by Governor Wolf in October of 2017.

Knowing that we all share in this human narrative of life, our experiences can mold and shape us for better or for worse. We either eradicate the consciousness that gives birth to the evils of our society, or we give birth to the moral good that fluctuates through our actions and deeds, lasting for generations. We are advocating to end over incarceration by giving a second chance to the many men and women who find themselves in this situation.

This is our call out to end over incarceration. Michelle Alexander gave us a thorough rendition on Mass incarceration and the prison industrial complex. Compelling religious communities and legislative leaderships take a closer look and analyze the problems. This leaves us with the challenge for us to eradicate the unjust Over Incarceration of people of color. There remains a disparity in the application of law towards people of color.

With a concerted effort from us all, having faith with great works, we can shape the future of corrections and punishment, in ways that benefit us all.

There should be no denial that we want to be on the right side of justice, that is across the board, same toward all people. Lets end over incarceration by supporting release mechanisms that restore hope, dignity and freedom.

### **Creating a Lifers’ Photograph Portfolio**

*By Clarence Sutton, AF-2458, SCI Huntingdon*

Request to all Pennsylvania Lifers: On August 9, 2017, the Pennsylvania Lifers Association at SCI Huntingdon decided to start a statewide Lifers’ Photograph Portfolio, to show the public that we are not animals, that we have changed, and that we should be given a second chance.

Please send two photographs of yourself, one from the time you were first arrested and one more recent photograph.

Please include your age and the number of years you have been incarcerated. Please note that these photographs cannot be returned.

### **Send the photographs and information to:**

CADBI c/o Decarcerate PA  
P O Box 40764  
Philadelphia PA 19107  
Phone: 267-217-3372  
CADBIphilly@gmail.com





### **Satterfield v. District Attorney Philadelphia**

*By Marissa Bluestine, Executive Director of the  
Philadelphia Innocence Project*

In *Satterfield v. District Attorney Philadelphia*, 872 F.3d 152 (3d Cir. 2017), the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit determined the Supreme Court’s 2013 decision in *McQuiggin v. Perkins*, 133 S. Ct. 1924 (2013), may provide a basis to ask for reconsideration and reopening of a federal habeas corpus petition previously denied as untimely.

As background, in *McQuiggin*, the Supreme Court held that a credible showing of actual innocence acts as a “gateway” allowing a federal court to consider constitutional claims raised in an otherwise untimely habeas petition. In other words, *McQuiggin* says that if you have an untimely habeas petition under AEDPA, you may still be able to raise your constitutional claims on your petition if you meet the “actual innocence” gateway standard. *Satterfield* adds to that in a limited way: if your habeas petition was denied as untimely before *McQuiggin* was decided, you may be able to file a motion in the district court under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 60(b)(6) asking the court to find that *McQuiggin* is an exceptional circumstance that allows reconsideration of the denial of your petition.

Of course, even with *Satterfield*, the mere existence of the *McQuiggin* decision is not enough to require the court to reconsider a decision that a habeas petition was untimely. Instead, petitioners have to show the court that *McQuiggin* plus other equitable factors justifies reconsideration in a particular case.

*Satterfield* makes clear that to have *McQuiggin* serve as a basis for reconsideration of a previously denied petition, a habeas petitioner must “make a proper showing of actual innocence.” The court must also consider additional factors such as the strength of the underlying constitutional claim.

For example, in *Satterfield*, the petitioner presented a “meritorious ineffective-assistance-of-counsel claim” that could be considered by the district court in determining whether to reopen the petition under Rule 60(b)(6).

Other factors the Third Circuit has previously said district courts may consider in a Rule 60(b)(6) analysis are desirability for the finality of judgments, that the rule not be used as a substitute for an appeal, interests of substantial justice, whether the motion for reconsideration was made within a reasonable time, and other equities that may justify granting or denying relief.

If you have an actual innocence claim and a federal habeas petition that was denied as untimely before *McQuiggin* was decided, you may want to consider filing a Rule 60(b)(6) motion in the district court asking for reconsideration of the denial of your petition. Keep in mind that relief still is rare in this situation, and the Philadelphia District Attorney’s office still has time to ask the United States Supreme Court to review the *Satterfield* decision.

*Editor’s Note: The Pennsylvania Innocence Project investigates and litigates cases of those convicted of crimes they did not commit. If you are serving a sentence for a crime you did not commit, please contact us to see whether we can assist you. All we need is a letter explaining (1) what you were convicted of, (2) why you say you are innocent, (3) what your sentence was, and (4) where you are in the appeals process.*

*You can write to us at:*

***The Pennsylvania Innocence Project  
1515 Market Street, Suite 300  
Philadelphia, PA 19102***

**Have an inmate who wants to be  
profiled?**

**Interview them and send in a  
submission to have their  
story or profile published in the  
next edition of *Graterfriends*!**

***Please be sure to include  
permission to publish.***



## Report from Nicole Sloane, Esq. Criminal Defense Attorney

### Call to Action

Robert Furgess claims he was unable to shower for three months while incarcerated in SCI Albion's restrictive housing unit. On January 4, 2017, Furgess filed a lawsuit in federal court claiming the Department of Corrections violated the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Erie Times News reports that the lawsuit complains that Furgess had been denied the opportunity to shower for three months because the restrictive housing unit lacked handicap-accessible showers. When Furgess was eventually allowed to shower, he was forced to sit in an armless plastic chair. As a result, he fell headfirst into the steel shower door, knocked unconscious. *Robert Furgess v. DOC*, No. 1:17-CV-0021 (M.D. Pa. 2017)

Two months before Furgess filed his complaint, fellow SCI Albion inmate Andre Jacobs filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus against the warden. Jacobs argued that he was kept in punitive solitary confinement for over 16 years in retaliation for prior successful prison conditions litigations.

Jacobs' petition for leave to proceed in forma pauperis was dismissed by the trial court when it erroneously found that the court lacked subject matter jurisdiction over Jacobs' petition. Jacobs appealed.

On October 23, 2017, the Commonwealth Court agreed with Jacobs and remanded back to the trial court for another look finding that the trial court had erred by dismissing Jacobs' petition. *Andre Jacobs v. Michael Clark (SCI Albion)*, 2017 Pa. Commw. Unpub. LEXIS 816 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2017)

It is easy to feel helpless and discouraged by the apathy shared by many corrections administrators as well as the public regarding physical abuse, retaliation, denial of medical care and other human rights abuses involving the treatment of prisoners.

(See also *McKeithan v. Clark*, 2017 Pa. Commw. Unpub. LEXIS 732, 133 C.D. 2017 (Pa. Commw. Ct. 2017) SCI Albion unsuccessfully appealed a trial judge's order requiring that corrections provide an inmate medical care for a shingles infection near his eye) I implore you to remember that we are not powerless to bring about positive changes.

Recent success stories in Alabama and Philadelphia remind us that positive change is possible. In the final months of 2017, 98% of black women voters secured the Alabama senate seat for Doug Jones, the former civil rights lawyer who successfully prosecuted two Klu Klux Klan members for bombing a Baptist church killing four black girls in 1963. Many of these impassioned women voters not only made it to the polls but dedicated the day to providing rides to other voters.

In Philadelphia which had been the third largest death penalty county in the United States, voters elected former public defender Lawrence Krasner as their District Attorney in 2017.

Krasner had been a longtime civil rights lawyer representing political protesters and black lives matter activists. Krasner campaigned on a platform that included rejecting the death penalty and ending mass incarceration.

What can we do? First, those of us who are eligible to vote must cast informed votes in every single election. Even convicted felons are eligible to vote after release from prison regardless of parole or probation status. They should re-register to vote if necessary. The ACLU reminds us that those who are still incarcerated on misdemeanors may vote using an absentee ballot.

To obtain an absentee ballot, contact your home county's Clerk of Elections asking for an absentee ballot application. For the spring primary, apply for an absentee ballot as soon as March. You must carefully provide your address exactly as it is to be displayed on a mailing envelope.

Election officials inform that there are ballots that are returned by the Department of Corrections because of minor errors or omissions. Anyone who is eligible to vote but prevented or discouraged from voting should notify the ACLU.

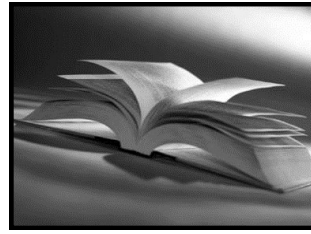
Each of us can encourage friends and family members to both register to vote and get to the polls. We can also help voters stay informed about candidates and issues all year long. The best way to do that is by educating ourselves using the Legislative Highlights section of *Graterfriends*.

The editorial staff has worked hard to make Legislative Highlights easier to read and understand. Read it. Pass it along. If a particular piece of legislation is important to you, contact your lawmakers and ask friends and family to do the same to voice an opinion or provide a personal story.

Neither Andre Jacobs, Robert Furgess, nor Dennis McKeithan is my brother, my father, or my son, but I still recognize each as a human being who deserves humane treatment. Because of this, it matters to me how they are treated within Pennsylvania prisons.

In the chain of command of every prison administration is someone who was elected by voters. It is he or she who needs to hear from constituents that the humane treatment of prisoners is an important issue. Convey that the abuse and mistreatment of inmates, including the denial of medical care, are intolerable in a civilized society.

Last but not least, join me in financially supporting the Pennsylvania Prison Society. For more than 230 years, it has been the leading voice for just and humane criminal justice. In just one month, more than 230 inmates and family members contact the Society for help. The Society's work is more important than ever. Help them receive the financial support they need to continue the mission we share.



## Literary Corner

### Where Did I Come From?

*By Enoch Conners, AF-5648, California State Prison*

I came from a great civilization  
a people who knew what day  
the rest of the world would  
relate to the same faith.

I come from a people who knew  
were the earth fit in relation to the universe  
while the rest of the world knew not.

I come from a civilization  
of great art and culture,  
a people advanced in mathematics and building  
structures,  
which were symmetrical to the sun.

I come from a people that fought  
for its independence  
from three foreign nations  
in one century alone!

I continue to survive this bloody annexation  
and to this day,  
I maintain my identity  
against pressure to assimilate.

I come from a civilization  
which has been here since the beginning of time  
I am heir to traditions  
I am indigenous to this land.

And now I hear these ignorant voices  
telling me to go back to where I came from?  
"I" am from here!

My civilization was found on this very earth  
in which we stand on.

(Literary Corner *continued*)

**When Justice is Delayed, Justice is Surely Denied**

*By Jeffrey Dawkins, GX-0748, SCI Dallas*

Thirteen years ago, 5,840 days. Before you read any further, think about the past thirteen years of your life. Imagine those times you think about, think about if you were never there. The mind can't even begin to paint a picture that can erase all the ups and downs, joy and pain, tears and laughter you experienced in that time. Now walk with me for a second.

Thirteen years ago, I was 18, fresh out of high school, with eyes brightly looking towards the future. Thirteen years ago, the Philadelphia Police Department stormed into my mother's home with guns drawn. I can still vividly hear her screams that tore me from my sleep. I have told this story so many times that it no longer feels like I am talking about myself.

Thirteen years ago, I was railroaded through a trial, wrongly convicted, appealed to every court possible for justice, and was denied. I remember sitting in a Philadelphia County Jail sick and unable to eat, while Philadelphia District Attorney's sat and planned to judicially take my precious life.

I remember feeling joy after seven failed attempts to commit me of this horrible crime of murder. The honorable Judge Benjamin Lerner dismissed all charges. I then remember the real-life horror of being re-arrested, tried and wrongly convicted. That horror movie has been my reality for the past thirteen years.

My beautiful son, Jayden Love, was just a toddler when this nightmare began, and now he is almost taller than me. He has my face before the lines of late night research etched their way into it. He has my hair before the stress of Judicial denials of justice took it away. He laughs like I did before the sadness of this travesty became my constant companion. He's me. The me that I was. Bright eyed and looking forward to his future, just as I was.

He, too, has thirteen years. Thirteen years without his father being physically in his life. "Don't worry dad, you'll be home soon." From his mouth to God's ears!

But right now, thirteen years. I am innocent and wrongly convicted of committing the crime of murder and sentenced to die in prison for it. For thirteen years the state has declared me to be like some hamster in a cage running on a wheel going nowhere! I am a human being fighting with all that I have, to go home to my family and where I belong.

I am calling out to you, please go online and view my Facebook page called "Chasing Justice" at [facebook.com/supportjdawkins](https://facebook.com/supportjdawkins). Please, if you have already read it yourself, direct someone else to read it as well. I ask that you please sign my petition, "Why Dawkins Case Deserves a Second Look." I am in dire need of over 100,000 signatures.

**Interpretation**

*By Nahbeel Richardson, JS-0382, SCI Mahanoy*

A word can have many meanings,  
Depending on whom defines it.

Whether the truth is among any  
Leads, to one's own experience.

Let's take "change" for example,  
And what one has been through.

Who determines what it would look like,  
You or that person?

Does change have to be  
Of something meticulous, or intricate in design?

Or could it be as simple as  
Taking a step in the right direction?

To clarify,  
You are entitled to an opinion,

But just because you are  
Doesn't always mean you are right.

For yourself? Yes, maybe,  
But we are not talking about you.

How can someone change,  
If they are not open to another point of view?

(Literary Corner *continued*)

### **Bigger Broken Home**

*By Zechariah Thompson, HV-3696, SCI Frackville*

Small cell, painted grey  
My heart beating to the water droplets  
From a sink that I use all day.

Trapped in this box, to witness the time  
And time I have spent, in a cell, in my mind.

My thoughts are at a pace I cannot maintain,  
My sanity in question, because I am too numb to  
complain.

At times I talk to myself, and I can't hear them  
laugh  
But they don't know the danger if they instigate  
my wrath.

I'm so afraid of change, because mistakes happen  
fast,  
So if I try to fight the future, to rectify the past.

Believing I can see the future, from repeating rou-  
tine  
Through anything changing remains unseen.

So I continuously drift into flashback zone,  
Only to be disturbed from the guard on the speak-  
erphone  
And I bleed through metaphors  
To avoid talking for too long.

Addicted to relief from a poem or a song  
I'm so used to chaos, I sleep better in madness,  
Today, I woke up and wrote this rhyme in sadness.

I wish my peers would stop pretending  
And keep telling me about a better ending.

I've tried to test God, to see the proof of his wrath  
So I can believe and say "I'm sorry" to those I once  
laughed at.  
In my mind he packed his things and snuck away.

This is how it feels for me, when you are sent to be  
alone,  
Far away from family, in an even bigger, broken  
home.

### **Awaiting a Knock from Opportunity**

*By Nahbeel Richardson, JS-0382, SCI Mahanoy*

Stuck in the way of the worst,  
In a place one never wants to be.  
Stagnant, mentally, and as I know,  
Capable of much more.

Confined by brick and mortar,  
Concrete and re-bar  
Double fence with barbed wire,  
And the laws of the land.  
I am desperate for a change.

Desperate for growth,  
Challenging endeavors.  
To be something else,  
And make a name for myself.

But being defined by past actions,  
And not my characteristics of today,  
I find it difficult, when not given the chance  
To take hold of a opportunity.

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page 24.**

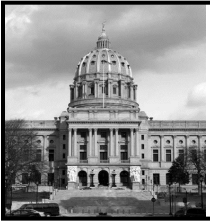


# Legislative Highlights

*Edited by Nicole Sloan & 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 2/21/18.

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	Referred to House Judiciary 4/7/17. Assigned to Senate Judiciary 10/31/17.	Support



# Legislative Highlights

*Edited by Nicole Sloan & Dwayne Heckert, Legislative Liaison for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections*

Bill & Printer No.	Description	Prime Sponsor	Action	Position
<b>SB 522</b> <b>PN 875</b>	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). In House Judiciary 5/25/17.	Support
<b>SB 523</b> <b>PN 867</b>	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.	Support
<b>HB 631</b> <b>PN668</b>	An Act amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for a mandatory period of three years' probation following release from incarceration for certain sex offenders.	Rep Ron Marsico R-Dauphin (part) County	Passed House Judiciary, 3/21/17; Passed House Appropriations, 3/22/17; Passed the House 4/3/17 (189-9). In Senate Judiciary 4/6/17. Signed in House 2/6/18. Signed in Senate 2/21/18.	Oppose
<b>SB 529</b> <b>PN 854</b> <b>(see HB1419)</b>	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



# Legislative Highlights

*Edited by Nicole Sloan & 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	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	Referred to Judiciary 2/15/17.	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	Introduced and referred to Senate Judiciary on 01/27/17	Support
HB 348 PN 2912	Requires a mandatory 5 year sentence for use of firearm during violent offense to be sewed consecutively to any other sentence.	Rep. Anthony DeLuca	Voted favorably from committee as amended in House Judiciary 01/23/18 Referred to Senate Judiciary 2/12/18.	Oppose





# Legislative Highlights

*Edited by Nicole Sloan & 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	Referred to Judiciary 10/11/17.	Support
<b>SB 961</b> <b>PN 1390</b>	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	Amended and passed in Senate Transportation 12/13/17. Received 1st consideration on the Senate Floor.	Oppose
<b>SB 897</b> <b>PN 1199</b>	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	Passed over in Senate Judiciary 01/30/18	Support
<b>HB 631</b> <b>PN 2992</b>	Amends Title 18 (Crimes & Offenses), 23 (Domestic Relations), & 42 (Judiciary), in sexual offenses, for conduct relating to sex offenders. Defines offense of failure to comply with registration requirements of sex offenders and imposing penalties. Provides for mandatory period of probation for certain sexual offenders.	Rep. Ron Marisco	On February 5, the bill was amended on the senate floor to include continued registration of sexual offenders. (Amended in the language of HB 1952). On February 6 the Senate passed the bill by a vote of 49-0. The House concurred in the Senate Amendments by a vote of 194-0. The bill will go to Governor Wolf for consideration.	Oppose



# Legislative Highlights

*Edited by Dwayne Heckert, Legislative Liaison for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections*

*(Continued)*

Bill & Printers Number	Description	Prime Sponsor	Action	Position
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	Reported as committed from Senate Judiciary 01/20/18  Note: Companion bill in the House is HB 1993, Rep. Sheryl Delozier. Re-referred to appropriations 1/31/18.	Oppose
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.	Rep. Karen Boback	Introduced and referred to House Labor and Industry on 01/09/2018	Support

(Literary Corner *continued from page 13*)

### **Blood Stained Dreams**

*By Victor DiNino, LN-1522, SCI Greene*

Bitter tears blur the image of a filthy hour glass.  
I feel each and every coarse grain, as the sand  
slowly falls.

Trapped within the confines of infinite sorrow,  
Like sinking sand in the dirty glass,  
Confined within filth and sinking.

Constricted like a serpent's dying prey, staring  
into oblivion,  
Blank stares and faint pulses, a few sunken  
cheeks for good measure,  
The spit-soaked concrete sidewalk taunts and  
teases.

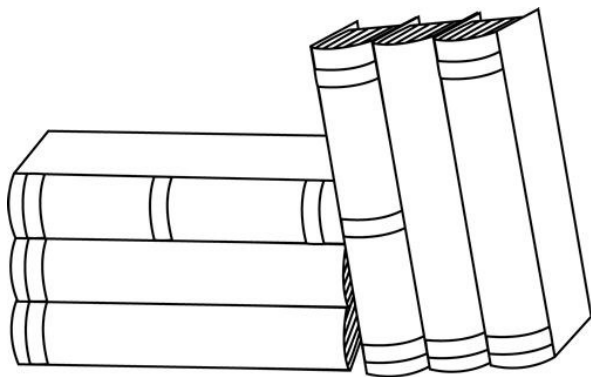
Blood stains, hunger pains, cold showers and  
clogged drains,  
Closed minds, locked doors, back-stabbers and  
petty wars.

A gas chamber for dreams with no last-minute  
reprieves,  
Choking on noxious clouds, asphyxiating the  
remnants of hope.

Stranded with a flat tire sold years ago for a fix,  
Left to suffocate on the exhaust fumes on a lost  
highway.

Grasping for straws, digging for truth,  
searching for a lift.

Destination? Anywhere but here!



## **Resources**

### **Prisoner 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.*

(Resources continued)

## 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](http://www.pasen.gov); information on Representatives is available at [www.house.state.pa.us](http://www.house.state.pa.us).

## DOC OFFICIALS

### DOC Secretary John Wetzel

19020 Technology Parkway  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050  
P | 717-728-2573  
W | [www.cor.pa.gov](http://www.cor.pa.gov)  
E | [ra-crpdocsecretary@pa.gov](mailto:ra-crpdocsecretary@pa.gov)

*Editor's Note: \*The three-digit district numbers are available at:*

*[www.PAsen.gov](http://www.PAsen.gov) for senators and  
[www.house.state.PA.us](http://www.house.state.PA.us) for representatives.*

## 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.

## 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

## USEFUL RESOURCES

### Coalition to Abolish Death by Incarceration

c/o Decarcerate PA

PO Box 40764

Philadelphia PA 19107

P | 267-217- 3372

W | [www.decarceratePA.info](http://www.decarceratePA.info)

E | [decarceratePA.pgh@gmail.com](mailto:decarceratePA.pgh@gmail.com) (Pittsburgh)

E | [CADBIphilly@gmail.com](mailto:CADBIphilly@gmail.com) (Phila.)

E | [decarceratePA@gmail.com](mailto:decarceratePA@gmail.com) (Phila.)

### 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](http://www.pailp.org)

E | [alove@pailp.org](mailto:alove@pailp.org)

### Prison Activist Resource Center

PO Box 70447

Oakland CA 94612

P | 510-893- 4648

W | [www.prisonactivist.org/resources](http://www.prisonactivist.org/resources)

E | [info@prisonactivist.org](mailto:info@prisonactivist.org)

## Announcements

### We have a new location!

As of November 27th, 2017, our offices are at a new location.

**230 South Broad Street  
Suite 605  
Philadelphia, PA 19102**

Any submissions you would like to send in should be sent to the above address, ***not*** to our old address on North Broad Street.

We thank you, and we are looking forward to receiving your submissions and continuing to service you as best as we can.

## Inmate Age Range

Age Range	# of Inmates	% of Inmates
Under 18	21	0.0%
Ages 18-21	2,144	1.2%
Ages 22-25	9,553	5.2%
Ages 26-30	23,393	12.8%
Ages 31-35	30,591	16.7%
Ages 36-40	34,216	18.7%
Ages 41-45	27,729	15.1%
Ages 46-50	20,929	11.4%
Ages 51-55	14,779	8.1%
Ages 56-60	9,574	5.2%
Ages 61-65	5,370	2.9%
Over 65	4,759	2.6%

*Editor's Note: Statistics courtesy of the Federal Bureau of Prisons.*

## 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)

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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  
www.Prisonsociety.org*

## 2018 Family Transportation Schedule

DATE	DESTINATION
February 2, 2018	Greene
February 5, 2018	Lauren Highlands & Somerset
February 8, 2018	Houtzdale
February 8, 2018	Benner & Rockview
February 9, 2018	Albion
February 12, 2018	Forest
February 16, 2018	Pine Grove
February 16, 2018	Fayette
February 26, 2018	Cambridge Springs & Mercer
February 26, 2018	Dallas & Retreat
March 2, 2018	Greene
March 5, 2018	Laurel Highlands & Somerset
March 9, 2018	Albion
March 9, 2018	Coal Township
March 12, 2018	Forest
March 12, 2018	Muncy
March 12, 2018	Frackville & Mahanoy
March 16, 2018	Fayette
March 19, 2018	Huntingdon & Smithfield
March 24, 2018	Waymart
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

First Class postage is required to re-mail

February 2018

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**PRISON SOCIETY**  
SINCE 1787

230 South Broad Street  
Suite 605  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102

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## SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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\$40	Regular Membership	\$1,000	1787 Society
\$100	Friend of the Society		
\$200	Patron		

Make a check or money order payable to

**The Pennsylvania Prison Society**  
230 South Broad Street, Suite 605  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Prisoners may pay with **unused** postage stamps.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Prisoner Number \_\_\_\_\_ Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Payment Method \_\_\_\_\_

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