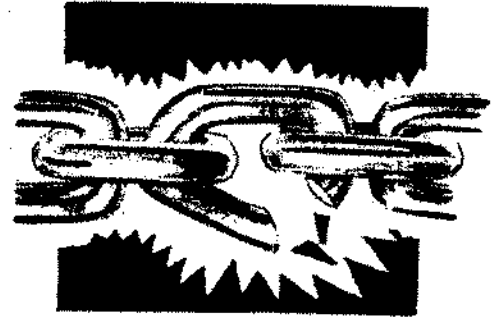




# Voices.Con

## Term-to-Life Prisoners Converse



Vol. 11, No. 8

www.VoicesDotCon.org

APRIL 2014

### IN THIS ISSUE

### STATE OFFICIALS CLAIM TO REPRESENT THE PUBLIC INTEREST

State governance not necessarily in the public's interest

.....Page 1

Prison life is not always conducive to the spirit

.....Page 3

Sometimes a faulty belief may cause you to sell yourself short

.....Page 4

New BPH stats show an improvement in parole grant rates

.....Page 5

State claims CA prisoner population is now down to 117,153

.....Page 5

All about Voices.Con and publishing info

.....Page 8

/////

/////

The taxpayers invest phenomenal amounts of State and local funds into the many police and sheriff departments, not to mention the State Attorney General's office. They make this monumental investment under the presumption that these agencies will, in good faith, represent that which is in the "public interest." The term-to-life prisoner population is uniquely positioned to have a birds-eye view of whose interests these entities are in the habit of serving.

An article published earlier this year in The Atlantic described a motion filed in Colorado, by the Arapahoe County District Attorney George Brauchler. The motion sought to bar Bob and Lola Autabee (victims) from participating in the sentencing phase of their son's killer, Edward Montour. The District Attorney (DA) intends to recommend the death penalty in the case, but it turns out the Autobees are unyieldingly opposed to the death penalty. In the motion, the DA argues that the law only grants rights to victims that intend to "discuss the harm that resulted from the crime." He argues that victim's rights laws don't apply to "mitigating" factors during sentencing, but only to "aggravating" circumstances of the crime.

One would be hard pressed to determine just whose interests this District Attorney could possibly be representing. The Autobees have publicly stated that their son (the

victim) would oppose the use of the death penalty.

On March 27, 2014, the California Attorney General Kamala Harris, submitted a "Notice of Appeal" in the Gilman v. Brown case. The Gilman case recently resulted in an injunction being placed against the CA Governor's power to reverse parole grants attained by prisoners with commitment offenses which occurred prior to 1988. In recent years, both California's Governor Brown and Attorney General Harris have indicated that they were opposed to CA being one of the only three States that permit the governor's office to reverse a parole decision, because they understand the public's sentiment currently attached to this issue. Yet, when the courts agree that such a power is unconstitutional, they both elect to appeal the court's order. Governors and Attorney Generals across this nation have always known how unfairly politicized State parole hearings are, yet the hundreds of habeas petitions filed, following such hearings each year, are vigorously fought by the State Attorney General's office.

Parole hearings conducted throughout the State of California each year, consistently experience an appearance from the local District Attorney's office; virtually always there to oppose the granting of parole. This happens even in the face of a multitude of letters received from the very community

## the PUBLIC INTEREST, cont'd

the DA claims to represent! Many of the prisoners at these parole hearings (where the DA opposes parole) made a plea agreement at trial with the same DA's office that, 10 or 20 years later, opposes their release. In most areas of law, this would be considered a breach of contract.

This type of mentality, which is being institutionalized amongst these State agencies, is evidenced in the collective lobbying efforts of the many police, sheriff, and State District Attorney Associations. When faced with underfunded, overcrowded jails and prisons, and a concerned public that demands less costly alternatives to incarceration (something their Legislature has thus far been unable to deliver on) these so-called law enforcement unions and associations continue to back new laws, and throw their support behind every ballot initiative that purports to increase prison terms in one form or another.

Every published university study, and every government report put forth in the past 20+ years has consistently found that increased incarceration is not only monetarily unsustainable, but not (on any level) in the public's interest. So why do the vast numbers of State attorneys, and their organized associations and unions, lack having even a fundamental understanding of what is in the public's interest?

The answer is actually quite simple. Their goals are not unlike any other State agency union; to increase the number of paid employees within their profession, and to increase the amount of money (taxpayer money in this case) being funneled into their coffer. The results, however, have been State budgets falling into billions of dollars of debt, the world's largest prison system having the most inhumanely overcrowded populations, and new generations of parolees being released and returned to prison within 3 years; having a new crime 70% of the time. Is any of this in the public's interest?

Professional ethics and codes of conduct promoted by the American Bar Association, CA Bar Association, and any other judicial review boards, appear to allow employees of the State to make claims of representing "the people" or, acting in the "public interest," when this is obviously not the case. It is time the people of these great States were represented with a little professional integrity and the public's best interests in mind.

## ECONOMICS

Every gun that is made,  
every warship launched,  
in the final sense, a theft from those  
who hunger and are not fed,  
those who are cold and are not clothed.  
The cost of one modern heavy bomber  
is this: a modern brick school  
in more than thirty cities.  
It is two electric power plants,  
each serving a town of 60,000.  
It is two fine, fully equipped hospitals.  
It is some fifty miles of concrete highway.  
We pay for a single destroyer with  
new homes that could have housed more  
than 8,000 people.  
This, I repeat, is the best way of life  
to be found on the road  
the world has been taking.  
This is not a way of life at all,  
in any true sense.  
Under the cloud of threatening war,  
it is humanity hanging from a  
cross of iron.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (1953)

### Let Us Help Get You Home!

D&D Worldwide Services LLC is an Inmate Service Provider. We create parole plans and provide parole plan documentation services worldwide. We are a team of Christian Professional Consultants with over 14 years' experience with the prison system. Our services are intended to guide Pro-Se Clients in the "Right Direction" while assisting them during the parole review process. When building your case, we focus on showing the Parole Board a real person, the positive outcome of incarceration, and you to be a favorable candidate for the privilege of parole!

**Full Service (Texas only)** - Our office will collaborate the details of your case, create into a personalized parole plan with an Interview Request. We will also provide you with updates of the major occurrences of your file when in review. Services are provided UNTIL an approval is granted or you are released from prison. Effective March 1, 2014 Service fee is \$800.00

**Standard Service (Worldwide)** - Our standard parole plan is approved in ALL States where parole is available. Our office will verify your supporters, build your support system, and create into a personalized standard parole plan. Send SASE for a processing form. Effective March 1, 2014 Service fee is \$200.

**Although the Prison system may only see Prison Numbers ... We see "Faces" with "Names" with "Loving families" We See People"!**

**D&D Worldwide Services, LLC**  
12337 Jones Rd #408, Houston TX 77070  
P.O. Box 40081, Houston TX 77240  
Office: (281) 580-8844 Website: [www.myparole.info](http://www.myparole.info)  
Se Habla Español

## SPIRITUALITY DENIED

One of the effects of adjusting to a term-to-life sentence, is being in a position where we tend to narrow our interests, concerns, and perspective. One begins to simplify their life, and literally to learn to see only what is right before them, instead of what is outside the walls they live in. Every prisoner does this to varying degrees, but there can come a time when we don't even lift our eyes beyond the height of the fences surrounding the yard we go to each day. Our visual perspective only lies within the walls of the prison that we live in, and we cannot, or choose not to, see beyond those walls. Our daily vision is filled with the close walls of our cell and the buildings, walls and fences, which surround us.

Some of this narrowing of focus is voluntary and is related to our desire to achieve a stability of emotion, in order to serve years and decades inside of prison, without losing control of ourselves, or succumbing to sadness, guilt, or depression. We seek to numb and isolate ourselves from those experiences which exasperate the already painful emotions of loneliness, shame, and hurt. There are also many involuntary ways in which the term-to-life prisoners perspective of the world is limited, narrowed, or obscured. The censorship of television, movies, magazines. The limited time of visits and phone calls, and the absence of babies and small children from our daily lives. And the physical limitations of the buildings, walls, and overall lack of scenery which accompanies most prison locations; they are usually located in desolate, flat, lifeless areas which were previously uninhabited, prior to the prison being built there.

Additionally, we are involuntarily limited by the amount of light which is emitted by a prison's security system, because we are never in complete darkness, nor ever able to see the stars above our heads. The vastness of the universe is hidden from us, and we are denied the opportunity to feel small or insignificant in comparison. How do we ever come to realize how immense the world and universe are, and begin to believe in a higher power? If we do already believe, how do we nourish that belief and maintain our faith, without the reminder of how

powerful and complete the universe is, and compare it to ourselves and the doubts and insecurities we all share.

This alteration of our perspective has an effect on our psyche, especially after decades inside of prison. Our doubts and insecurities are responded to by ego, instead of acceptance and humility, and the battle of our mind, and our heart creates a dissonance within us. We feel one way, but our ego tells us something different, and we remain stuck in the small world of bars, walls, and fences. This continues until, and unless, we can find our way out of the prison of our minds. It is a coping method to be sure, but one that can have lasting effects on our spirituality.

Interestingly, this might also apply, in part, to people who live in cities, compared to those who live in rural areas. In cities, the scenery is usually flat, it may be obscured by buildings, and the lights certainly diminish the brightness of the night sky. And as in prison, there are multiple reasons to keep our vision at ground level; to look out for danger, whether it is speeding cars, violent people, or something else. It is said that religion is more

(Cont'd on page 4)

### **DAVID J. RAMIREZ, ATTORNEY AT LAW AGGRESSIVE-EXPERIENCED-REASONABLE LEGAL REPRESENTATION**

Specializing in Representing Life Term Inmates in:

- Parole Suitability Hearings
- En Banc/Rescission Hearings
- Petitions for Writ of Habeas Corpus
- on Board Denials and Governor Reversals
- 3000.1/Parole Violations
- Clemency Inmate Appeals/115s
- 3 Strikes Petition to Recall
- Petition to Advance Hearing

**Law Office of David J. Ramirez  
7545 Irvine Center Drive Suite 200  
Irvine, CA 92618**

**Tel: (949) 623-8314 Fax: (949) 666-5505**

**[dramirezusc@yahoo.com](mailto:dramirezusc@yahoo.com)**

**I have over 70 grants of suitability-check out my  
web video at [www.shouselaw.com](http://www.shouselaw.com)**

spirituality DENIED, cont'd

prevalent in rural areas, which might be evidence of the validity of this concept.

So, does any of this indicate a correlation between environment and spirituality? And, is our spirituality inhibited if we aren't able to experience nature and witness the vastness of the universe? Well, from the term-to-life prisoner's perspective, it could be said that environment does have an impact on ones spirituality. It isn't absolute, nor is it impermeable. We can learn to find ways to discover and nourish our spirituality wherever we are, and eliminate the dissonance within us. But first, we must be aware there is a deficiency, and second, we must take action to achieve a more healthy balance within ourselves. Our spiritual self is just as important as our emotional, mental, and physical selves are. Are you doing this?

I can share only one example with you; mine. My path to spirituality derived from one question that I didn't understand, yet because I trusted the messenger who delivered it, I sought to answer this question and to keep an open mind doing so. I was asked if it was possible that my diminished emotional self was somehow connected to my diminished spiritual self? I quickly found that the answer was a resounding yes, and it has been life changing and revealing to my core. These two aspects of self are absolutely connected, and today, I live a much more balanced life. I've regained the spirituality I lost so long ago and now strive to nourish all aspects of myself each and every day, no matter where I may physically be. The correlation between environment and spirituality exists, as does the correlation between emotion and spirituality.

\* CORRECTION \*

Last month we reported incomplete stats for the Feb/2014 Youth Offender hearings. Here are the complete results for that one month period:

Paroles Granted: 10      Deferred Hearing: 4  
Paroles Denied: 6      Postponements: 3

Please disregard the Feb/2014 stats provided on page-6 of last month's edition.

\*\* EVALUATION \*\*

T A N W C I D T V Q U G S H E C K  
E M M O N K C Y L S B I X O M K A  
V I G S I S P O N Y S Y I M R R P  
R Y U Q O E O T R Y O U T S U A O  
E L L N O I T A L I P M O C S M O  
S S V A L Y R A M M U S O O Q E M  
B O N N E F N R G M C N N A U R Y  
O O U N E A R T H I S O Y R E U Q  
N U I X P E Z I N I T U R C S H E  
H T R T W L R Y O E A S H I T B G  
G L C R E V I E W W O V E N I L K  
K I S A R E R O L P X E L V O L X  
E N O C R P R O O P I N I O N A C  
Y E E T A T O N K H B O K G I I W  
I U S A H N S H C T A W I F N U I  
T Q I Y E E C B T S M I Y E G S Q  
R B T O V P E X A M I N E W E R P

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1) Abstract    | 13) Outline     |
| 2) Analysis    | 14) Query       |
| 3) Compilation | 15) Questioning |
| 4) Consider    | 16) Remark      |
| 5) Examine     | 17) Review      |
| 6) Explore     | 18) Scan        |
| 7) Investigate | 19) Scrutinize  |
| 8) Look        | 20) Study       |
| 9) Notate      | 21) Summary     |
| 10) Noteworthy | 22) Synopsis    |
| 11) Observe    | 23) Unearth     |
| 12) Opinion    | 24) Watch       |

HOW MUCH IS...ENOUGH?

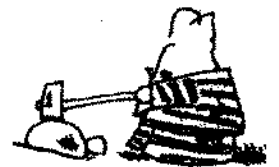
Throughout the time we spend here in prison, we are faced with thousands of choices. Some will be as mundane as whether or not the dinner that night is worth the walk, to the more long-term investments like health, vocations or a self-help program. At the root of it all is our will, our decision on what we choose for ourselves. What are we willing to do, and in the end, is it worth it?

For many of us, we have already spent significant numbers of years in prison, and for others, they are only just getting started on their journey. With the exception of those who are truly innocent of the crimes they are incarcerated for, we are here for the choices we made. Sooner or later, if we want to go home, we will have to confront, understand and come to terms with the portion of our lives that led us to believe those choices were somehow right.

That journey, in and of itself, is a long one. It took a lifetime to develop the faulty reasoning and morals we once  
(Cont'd on page 6)



LITTLE KNOWN REASONS TO PAY ATTENTION



The results of the BPH Youth Offender hearings, and BPH parole consideration hearings saw some considerable spikes during the month of March 2014. By "spikes" we mean an elevated number of parole grants. We will continue to monitor this positive change and let you know if the trend continues. The results of the BPH Youth Offender hearings for the month of March are as follows:

\* Paroles Granted: 8                      \* Paroles Denied: 8                      \* Stips/Postpone: 6

The spike is in the overall parole grant rate. During the month of March 2014, the total number of paroles GRANTED at parole hearings for term-to-life prisoners was 74. This number includes the 8 grants from the Youth Offender hearings. In the first week of March, there were 15 grants. In the second week, there were 22 grants. In the third week, there were 12 grants. In the fourth week, there were 25 grants.

//////////    //////////    //////////

As of March 12, 2014, 117,153 prisoners were housed in California's 34 adult prisons (according to the CDCR's website) which amounts to 143.6% of the 81,574 design capacity, and there's an additional 8,740 prisoners housed in out-of-state private prisons. This current population is still approximately 502 prisoners above the June 30, 2014 benchmark, mandated by the federal court in the Plata case. California has told the court that they will meet the June benchmark by the transfer of prisoners to in-state private prisons. Here is a sample of some of the state's prison populations as of March 2014:

<u>Prisons with highest population:</u>	<u>Design Capacity</u>	<u>Actual Pop.</u>	<u>% of design capacity</u>
Central California Women's Facility	2,004	3,661	182.7%
North Kern State Prison	2,694	4,714	175.0%
Wasco State Prison	2,984	5,148	172.5%
Mule Creek State Prison	1,700	2,886	169.8%
California State Prison, Calipatria	2,308	3,835	166.2%
Valley State Prison	1,980	3,175	160.4%
<u>Prisons with lowest population:</u>			
California Health Care Facility, Stockton	1,818	1,331	73.2%
California Medical Facility	2,361	2,070	87.7%
Folsom Women's Facility	403	355	88.1%
California State Prison, Sacramento	1,828	2,219	121.4%
Pelican Bay State Prison	2,380	2,740	115.1%
California Men's Colony	3,838	4,565	118.9%

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

...ENOUGH?, cont'd

embraced, the change won't come overnight. Some of us are ready because fundamentally we knew we were wrong, or finally came to that understanding. For some of us, we may feel justified in our choices, or even worse, hold no regrets for what brought us here. regretfully, those of us who feel that way haven't even found the door that will lead to our freedom, and no words will be able to convince a parole board otherwise.

For those of us who have come to the critical understanding that we were wrong and have made the decision to correct our faulty thinking and beliefs, there's still another choice to be made: How much are we willing to do? Some of us believe after a few self-help groups and maybe a vocation or two, that we've done enough. They understand they were wrong and took the steps they believed necessary to correct that previously destructive lifestyle. Some believe that prior work experience or trades they were employed in when they were free, is enough and therefore refused to get involved in a vocational program. They say, "No more. I've done enough to earn the right to go home." And they won't budge.

Maybe they're right. Maybe it will be enough. Like everything else, it's a choice they have made. More times than not it's pride that leads us to say "enough," pride that refuses to put any more efforts into ensuring our choice to be with our loved ones who really want us back in their lives. For a large portion of us, pride played some part in bringing us here, and for many of us it will play a critical role in keeping us here. Are we really willing to risk bringing anything short of our best effort to the table come time for parole consideration? How much is being home with our loved ones worth? And don't they deserve our unending effort to walk beside them again? How much of our life, and theirs, are we willing to miss out on? In the end, the only ones who can make that decision is us.

---

**\* LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION \***

In February, Little Hoover published another report on sentencing, calling California's criminal justice system a "slow-motion disaster." It called for the creation of a data center which would provide solid information to guide sentencing decisions.

**PRIVATE PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION  
FOR LIFERS**

Many lifers are receiving CDCR/BPH FAD psychological evaluations indicating a moderate or high risk that they do not deserve, based upon the misuse of actuarial measures. This will result in a BPH lengthy denial and many more years of suffering.

A private psychological evaluation, arranged with the help of your attorney, will correct this injustice and in many cases result in your deserved release. If you have such a denial, a new psych report is new evidence, allowing you to go back to the board sooner.

I have over 40 years of experience (over 3000 reports) evaluating lifers and my reports are recognized by the courts.

**MELVIN MACOMBER, Ph. D.**  
PMB 316

8789 Auburn Folsom Road, Suite C  
Granite Bay, CA 95746  
(916) 652-7014

[reports@drmelmac.com](mailto:reports@drmelmac.com)

**PRISON LEGAL NEWS**

**PUBLISHED MONTHLY SINCE 1990**

*A 56-page magazine packed with:*

- ◆ Summaries and analysis of recent national and local court decisions on prisoner rights, from the prisoner perspective.
- ◆ Articles from attorneys, including how-to litigation advice.
- ◆ News of prison-related struggle and activism in the United States and around the world.
- ◆ Distributes a wide variety of legal, self-help and criminal justice books.

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

*Prisoners \$30*

*Non-incarcerated individuals \$35*

*Institutional or professional \$90*

(attorneys, libraries, government agencies, organizations)

*Sample copy \$3.50*

**Prison Legal News**

PO BOX 1151, LAKE WORTH FL 33460

(561) 360-2523

[HTTP://WWW.PRISONLEGALNEWS.ORG](http://WWW.PRISONLEGALNEWS.ORG)

*Orders accepted by phone or online. New and unused postage stamps or embossed envelopes may be used as payment*

# CFS *will buy your stamps!*

## CONVERT YOUR POSTAGE STAMPS INTO CASH

Upon receipt of your stamps, we send a money order to your trust account or - as you direct - to a family member, friend, or outside account, a wired or electronic funds transfer, or to a package vendor (\*).

CFS OFFERS THE FASTEST, MOST REPUTABLE SERVICE WITH THE MOST CHOICES:

- 10 years in the business
- Highest reimbursement rates
- Payment within 24 hours
- Stamps accepted from all states, inmates,\*\* and free persons
- Money orders, wired/electronic transfers, package vendors (\*\*)
- Minimum money order is \$15.00
- Funds sent to your trust account or to whom you designate
- No order form is required
- All denominations of stamps are accepted
- Single stamps, stamped envelopes are OK.

\* We will submit money order to the vendor, but you must submit your order forms to the vendor and deal with the vendor directly.

### NEW REIMBURSEMENT RATES

\*\*[ Void in states where prohibited by law. ]

#### 70% of FACE VALUE

For Complete Sheets, Books, or Rolls of "Forever" Stamps  
In new or excellent (unfolded, unmarked, original) condition

#### 60% of FACE VALUE

For Complete Sheets, Books, or Rolls of All Other Stamp Denominations  
In new or excellent (unfolded, unmarked, original) condition

#### 50% of FACE VALUE

For All Other Stamps Including Partial Books, Sheets, Rolls, or Strips,  
and Single Stamps of All Denominations, and Stamped Envelopes  
Single stamps must have adequate peel-off borders  
Envelopes must have current first-class rate postage and no prison markings

- DO NOT apply tape of any kind to the stamps.
- DO NOT send envelopes with prison stamp or impression.
- PLEASE give us a complete name/address where funds are to be sent.
- PLEASE provide any special forms required & complete instructions.

Visit our website:  
[www.cash4urstamps.com](http://www.cash4urstamps.com)

**CFS**

**P.O. BOX 687**

**WALNUT, CA 91788**

SEND SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE FOR FREE BROCHURE





**Voices.Con**  
Term-to-Life Prisoners Converse



**Newsletter address:**

Voices.Con  
P.O. Box 361  
King City, CA 93930

**Website address:** [www.VoicesDotCon.org](http://www.VoicesDotCon.org)  
**Website E-mail:** [Publisher@VoicesDotCon.org](mailto:Publisher@VoicesDotCon.org)  
**Editor E-mail:** [Dave@VoicesDotCon.org](mailto:Dave@VoicesDotCon.org)  
**Advertising E-mail:** [Janet@VoicesDotCon.org](mailto:Janet@VoicesDotCon.org)

The Voices.Con newsletter is written exclusively by term-to-life prisoners, unless otherwise noted, focusing on issues of primary concern to those serving a long-term incarceration. The newsletter is published monthly at the VoicesDotCon.org website. This information has been designed to be of potential benefit in any jurisdiction having term-to-life and long-term prisoners and is made available to any other supportive family and friends as well. No persons affiliated with the Voices.Con newsletter are lawyers. Information provided herein is not intended as a substitute for proper legal advice. All questions or comments on information contained herein should be directed to the Editor at the above E-mail address.

#### ABOUT VOICES.CON

Voices.Con is an excellent source of nuts and bolts information relating to parole preparation, parole related politics, understanding parole law and current rulings and the importance of retaining the proper counsel and psychologists for parole hearings. This information is provided exclusively by long-term prisoners who have been there and are currently experiencing the ups and downs of the parole process. We are sorry to say that we do not have the resources to hire staff lawyers or provide legal documents of any kind. **We do maintain a mailing list for paid monthly newsletter subscriptions (\$11 annually.)** The Voices.Con newsletter and all past editions, may be downloaded at no cost by any friend or family member at the VoicesDotCon.org website. On occasion, we may have a current or past edition that can be mailed to a prisoner who has nobody else to download it for free. However, this remains completely contingent on the number of donations received at our mailing address. **Please include a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope in any correspondence requiring a response.**

#### A FEW FACTS TO REMEMBER

- ⇒ Today, more prisoners in U.S. prisons are serving life terms than ever before. With a U.S. prison population of 2.3 million people, 140,610 are serving life terms.
- ⇒ California's prison system peaked at 173,000 prisoners in 2007, making it the largest prison system in the nation. With 34,164 prisoners serving life terms, it also has the most lifers.
- ⇒ In Alabama, California, Massachusetts, Nevada, and New York, at least 1 in 6 prisoners are serving a life term.

#### SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

1. We have only one agenda, advocating on behalf of the term-to-life prisoner and distributing information that will further this cause, enabling the term-to-life prisoner to effectively advocate on his or her own behalf.
2. You may write an essay/article on any related subject or issue of concern to the term-to-life prisoner population.
3. We prefer that all submissions be between 250 and 500 words. Please clearly print or type all submitted material.
4. We also accept and encourage all submissions of topical artwork. Please include a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope with any submissions of artwork or written material where a return has been requested.

#### OTHER AVAILABLE MATERIAL PUBLISHED AT VOICES.CON WEBSITE:

- \* Preview or download our Prisoner Support Directory specifically designed for the needs of the term-to-life prisoners—Free
- \* Preview or download a complete Newsletter Descriptions List of all previous editions of Voices.Con—Free
- \* Preview or download all previous editions of the Voices.Con newsletter ever published—Free
- \* Preview or download previously argued case law in parole related court cases—Free