



Florida **D**eath **R**ow **A**dvocacy **G**roup
Working to maintain and improve living conditions for death row in Florida

Newsletter May, 2019

Please share this newsletter with others who did not receive one.

Of Information:

- **Medical** - The DOC's prison healthcare contract continues with Centurion of Florida LLC. If you want FDRAG to contact Medical on your behalf please sign a medical release form (DC4-711B Consent and Authorization for Use and Disclosure Inspection and Release of Confidential Information (HIPAA Form) giving medical permission to discuss your care. You can sign the form to: Diane Thornton, Geesje de Jong, Jayne England.
- **Inmate Food & Property Packages** - The contract with Access and Union was not renewed and FDOC is currently evaluating service providers for a new package program. Info from DOC website: The Florida Department of Corrections intends to issue a new solicitation in early 2019 that will include services previously provided in the Property Package Program. The procurement process to secure a new statewide contract often is a lengthy activity and, as is our practice, will follow an established timeline. The Department anticipates awarding the solicitation and establishing a new contract in 2020. The Department will work diligently to procure services to allow friends and family the opportunity to periodically purchase a property package for incarcerated family members and/or friends. During this procurement process, inmates can continue to purchase property items through the quarterly order program currently offered by the canteen service provider, Trinity Services Group. Friends and family wishing to contribute toward the purchase of property items may deposit funds in their loved ones inmate trust fund account.
- **Treatment of inmates for hepatitis C**, PRESS RELEASE Court Issues Final Order in Prison Hepatitis C Class Action, Requiring Treatment for All Incarcerated People with Hepatitis C, Regardless of Disease Stage MIAMI/TALLAHASSEE. **On April 18, 2019**, Judge Mark Walker of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida issued a final order in the Florida Justice Institute's (FJI) prison class action, requiring the Florida Department of Corrections (FDOC) to provide treatment to all incarcerated people with Hepatitis C (HCV), including those at the earliest stages of the disease. The Court also required the FDC to close some of the loopholes in its existing policy, to ensure that patients are not improperly excluded from treatment because they have insufficient time remaining in prison, and that any exclusion is based only on medical criteria. The order affects roughly 20,000 to 40,000 Florida prisoners. "This case is a victory for public health in Florida," said Dante P. Trevisani, Executive Director of the Florida Justice Institute (FJI). "As a result of this order, thousands of people will be treated for hepatitis C and will no longer be at risk for cancer, liver disease, and premature death." The Complaint described how the treatment of HCV was revolutionized in 2013 with the advent of direct-acting antiviral (DAA) drugs, which cure 90 - 95% of all hepatitis C patients, regardless of the form of the disease, with little to no side effects. In December 2017, the Court issued a preliminary injunction, requiring the FDOC to provide treatment to prisoners by certain deadlines depending on the severity of their disease, but not requiring treatment for those at the earliest stages of the disease. Since the entry of the preliminary injunction order, FJI filed a motion for summary judgment, asking the Court for a final injunction that imposed several more requirements. This order largely granted that request.

- **Fans** - If you are without a fan or your fan has broken down, and you are without the means to buy one, please let us know and we will try and help you. We do need to check whether you have already a working fan in your possession. Please write to Diane Thornton for that (address see below)
- **TV's** - We were contacted by some of you asking if we can help with obtaining a TV. We don't have funds available now, but if we know how many TV's are needed we can perhaps think of fund raising ideas. So please let us know if you don't have a TV, and no money to buy one. We can't promise that we can help you but knowing how many are needed would be a start. Please write to: Jayne England, see address below.
- **Randall Berg Jr.**, former executive director of the Florida Justice Institute, passed away on April 10, 2019, at 70 years old. Randy co-founded the civil rights nonprofit Florida Justice Institute (FJI) in 1978 and served as its Executive Director for 41 years until his retirement in 2019. His work transformed Florida's prison system, helping to ensure that people in prison were treated with humanity, dignity, and respect.
- **Special Visits** - Special visits are now only available for out of State/Country visitors and are being reduced from six per year to three maximum. Also, there will only be three Special Visits in the VP at any Saturday or Sunday.
- **JPay concerns/Tablets** - About the many problems with the JPay tablets and the JPay customer service. We are trying to compile complaints and issues about the JPay tablets/batteries/customer service. Please let us know what were the problems you experienced, how long after you bought the tablet problems started, your (or your family's/friends's) problems with contacting JPay. Please write to Louise Jankowski, see address below.
- **TV Antenna system UCI** - FDRAG has collected donations for new TV antennas, amplifiers and transformers for UCI. They were delivered to the prison the end of December 2018. Thankfully the antennas were not lost in the recent fire in the maintenance building but have been put up in the meantime.

Correspondence

Kari Jones is in charge of requests for correspondence. You can send your letters (with some information about yourself) directly to Kari. Her address has changed, it is now: **Kari Jones, 6127 Gillot Blvd, Port Charlotte, FL 33981**. We comply with **Title 33 of the Florida Administrative Code** and do not place inmate ads soliciting pen pals or market advertising services.

Cards - Please send your requests from now to our card lady **Tammy Alpers, 473 Ellis 204, San Francisco Ca 94102**. Tammy offers general greeting cards and holiday cards. 5 cards and in English or blank cards only. Please include 4 stamps with every request to cover postage.

Mailing

Addresses

Geesje de Jong - Maleme 17- 15237 Filothei - Athens, Greece. **Diane Thornton** - 68 Queen Street. Withernsea. East Riding of Yorkshire. HU19 2HA. England. **Louise Jankowski** - 62 larch Avenue, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 1JX UK. **Jayne England** - 1 Almshouse, Lacock Road, Corsham, SN13 9HS, UK. This is meant for **all** the mail, **except** card/correspondence requests (for that see addresses above). Alternatively, a fast option is to ask your family/friend/penpal to email us at **fdragflorida@yahoo.com** about any issue on your behalf, or email one of us with JPay if possible.

FDRAG (Florida Death Row Advocacy Group) is dedicated to working to improve the living conditions on death row in Florida and we are here to try to help you with your concerns, complaints, issues etc. For those who would like help from FDRAG, we do ask that you contact us directly and we get back to you as soon as possible.

Website: <http://www.fdragflorida.com>

Email: fdragflorida@yahoo.com

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