



Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty

Former Death Row Warden Addresses KCADP's 2012 Abolition Conference

Former death row warden Dr. Allen Ault delivered the keynote address at the 2012 Abolition Conference on Saturday, November 10th.

Ault had the responsibility of overseeing executions during his time as a death row warden in Georgia. His speech addressed the traumatic impact that executions have on the correctional officers who must carry out a death sentence. Ault is one of a number of former wardens and corrections officials across the country who are calling for the death penalty to be repealed and replaced with life without parole.

“Ending the death penalty is not a partisan issue and having the death penalty does not protect public safety,” said Ault.



KCADP Board Chair Donna Schneweis thanks Dr. Ault for addressing the conference.

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If you were unable to attend the conference, you can still watch Dr. Ault's keynote address on our website. Visit www.ksabolition.org/featured/video-dr-aults-2012-abolition-conference-keynote-address to watch Dr. Ault's speech.

In addition to Dr. Ault's keynote, the conference also included group workshops on different aspects of the death penalty. KCADP members from across the state attended the conference, as well as many new folks who were interested in learning more about capital punishment. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about how the death penalty is inconsistently applied to similar cases in Kansas, how the cost of the death penalty affects public safety, the risk of executing an innocent person, and the perspective of a murder victim family member who lost her father to homicide.

Do you have an idea for a workshop or speaker for next year's conference? We would love to have your input on what death penalty issues you want to hear about. Contact a KCADP organizer at info@ksabolition.org or 785-235-2237 to share your thoughts or to volunteer.



Dr. Ault, KCADP Executive Director Mary Sloan and KCADP organizer Kristin Bollig speak with attendees at the conference.

From the Executive Director...

By Mary Sloan



What does the New Year hold? Every year, the promise of a new start is exhilarating and daunting at the same time. For those of us who seek repeal, the key question is “can we expect to see the death penalty abolished in 2013?”

In a few weeks, a lot of new legislators will be coming to Topeka. The challenge for us is that many of them have unknown positions on the death penalty. Additionally, some longtime friends of abolition are no longer at the Statehouse. Given the unknown factors, we must learn as much as possible about the new legislators. We must continue to work with known supporters. We must help undecided legislators form a favorable position toward abolition.

A long-time supporter plans to introduce an abolition bill and we will do all we can to gain support for it. Our members and Abolition Endorsing Groups play a key role. We can't succeed without activists making many calls, sending many e-mails, transmitting many faxes, writing many letters and making many visits with elected representatives. Other actions like tabling at events, speaking to congregations, clubs, friends and neighbors – all these actions will help us raise awareness and educate. We are counting on you.

Together we will succeed - we are on the right side of history. Abolition is long overdue. Kansans are ready for a better public policy. Having the death penalty does not keep us any safer. It wastes money that could be better spent. It causes pain to those it touches, and the system has a history of mistakes, errors and injustices. It just does not serve society well. So, together, we plan our work and work our plan, knowing it is just a matter of time. Together, we can make abolition happen sooner rather than later.

KCADP Welcomes New Staff!



KCADP welcomes Maria Cuevas to the staff! Maria is our new Administrative Coordinator and began work on January 2, 2013.

A native of Topeka, Maria recently graduated from the University of Missouri - Kansas City with a BA in Sociology and a concentration in the study of inequalities. Maria brings extensive experience as an Executive Assistant and has been involved with a number of local non-profits as a volunteer and has engaged in a variety of philanthropic efforts. Additionally, Maria's prior experience in managing a bed and breakfast Inn in downtown Topeka led her to an interest in event planning and custom cake design – culminating in the founding of her on-line company, MariaMakesCakes.com. Please join us in welcoming Maria to KCADP!

JOIN US FOR KANSAS ABOLITION DAY

It's almost that time again! Wednesday, January 30th is Kansas Abolition Day. Abolition Day commemorates the first time a Kansas Governor signed a bill to repeal the death penalty in 1907.

Last year, KCADP members helped make Abolition Day a huge success by making more than 250 phone calls to the Governor's office, telling him why it's important to repeal the death penalty in Kansas. Let's see if we can multiply those efforts this year by getting calls into the Governor's office AND our state legislators!

You can help make Abolition Day 2013 a success by making just a few phone calls on January 30th. Contact a KCADP organizer at 785-235-2237 or info@ksabolition.org to get talking points and confirm your new legislators' names and contact information. To call the Governor's office, dial 877-579-6757.

Want to do more to help? Join a KCADP phonebank to encourage other abolitionists to call their legislators and the Governor. Contact KCADP for information on how to volunteer.

From the Board Chair...

By Donna Schneweis

As we begin 2013, we have four new members joining our Board of Directors.

Kenya Cox, Wichita, joins the board for a one-year term. She serves as the 4th District Chair for the Republican Party, as well as the President of the Wichita NAACP chapter. Kenya used to have a “do the crime, do the time” mindset and did not oppose the death penalty. Conversations with others planted seeds of new thinking. Her work with the NAACP helped her understand the flaws of the criminal justice system which puts poor persons and minorities at greater risk of wrongful conviction due to inadequate representation. Thanks to the conversations and new insights on the justice system, Kenya now stands ready to support abolition and serve on the KCADP board.

Dennis Paschke, Robert Sanders and Shawn Streepy were each elected to two-year terms.

Dennis Paschke is a husband, father, former electrical engineer and now an ordained Elder and Pastor. Currently, he serves Evangel Church in Holton, Kansas. His life has afforded him many blessings including serving as Chairman of the 1988 Winter Olympic Games and serving as a VP of a Fortune 100 company before answering his call to full-time ministry. He graduated with a BSEE degree from the University of Calgary and a Master of Divinity degree from the Saint Paul School of Theology.

Robert Sanders is a veteran Corrections professional. He served in the Kansas Department of Corrections in a variety of positions including administration and leadership. In 2004, he was appointed by Governor Sebelius to the Kansas Parole Board. Robert retired from the Parole Board in 2011 after serving as its Chair. He is active in his church, Antioch Missionary Baptist. His opposition to the death penalty comes from seeing how race and geography introduce disparity in sentencing.

Rev. Robert Shawn Streepy is a former state and federal prosecutor whose caseload included financial, violent, drug trafficking, environmental and capital crimes during a thirty year career. Rev. Streepy decided to leave the prosecutor world in part due to his opposition to the death penalty. He attended seminary and was ordained an Episcopal priest. He now serves as Assistant Rector at St. Luke’s in Shawnee and has a part time legal practice helping people who face financial challenges.

Jeff Wicks will be continuing his service on the Board. He was elected to serve as the Treasurer starting January 1, 2013. He is a capital defender in Wichita. Eileen Schartz Weiss did not seek re-election as Treasurer. She was elected to the remaining year of Jeff’s director term.

We thank the following board members who are transitioning off: Don Anderson, Winfield; Holly Weatherford, Merriam; and Cheryl Pilate, Olathe. We are so grateful for their service to KCADP and wish them the very best.

**KCADP would like to thank our donors for their generous support
of our mission to abolish the death penalty in Kansas.**

KCADP is a 501(c)(3) organization and donations are tax deductible. New donations help us qualify for a matching grant from a major foundation. You can call the office at 785-235-2237 or email Mary Sloan, Executive Director (mary@ksabolition.org) for additional information.

KCADP STATEMENT ON VIOLENCE IN DECEMBER 2012

For many families across Kansas and across the country, this holiday season has been marred by grief. The horrific tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut shook us to our core. As we shared our grief with the families in Connecticut, our anguish only deepened when we learned that Topeka police officers Cpl. David Gogian and Jeff Atherly were killed in the line of duty.

Our hearts go out to the families in Newtown, and to the families, friends and colleagues of Cpl. Gogian and Officer Atherly. No words can truly express our sense of loss and heartbreak in the wake of these two tragedies. Our thoughts and prayers are with both communities at this time.

While these tragedies may have received more notoriety, we also know that they are not the only losses suffered. We wish to extend our thoughts and our care to all who are missing a loved one this holiday season.

Just One Action

Contributed by Lori Baux, National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

Everyone has busy lives. Holidays abound, cars need repair, children have some sort of practice, or you are on a committee at church. On it goes, week after week. But among these busy days, filled with things we must do, we have a question we hope you'll ask and answer.

Will you take one action to help a good cause?

We hope the answer is yes and that the good cause is repealing the death penalty in Kansas.

The 2013 state legislature is about to come to order. More than 50 new members of the State Legislature will gather in Topeka with much to learn about a great many issues. **Let one of the issues they hear about be your letter, email, call or personal comment to say "please end the death penalty in Kansas!"**

Our KCADP staff is happy to help you with information and any guidance that might be useful. If you hear from your elected officials, please let us know. Our KCADP website, www.ksabolition.org, has information about how you can contact your legislators and other ways that you can help.

Kansas policymakers care about what you think. They will be hearing from a chorus of other organizations and people clamoring to get attention on other issues. **But if each of us does one thing, makes one contact, we can be a chorus of voices saying "please end the death penalty in Kansas".**

Can you take one action today to help a good cause?

We hope the answer is yes!

Spotlight on an Abolitionist: Drew and Joanne Bodner and Tony Hix

Volunteers are the heart of our organization. Our volunteers spend countless hours conducting research, making phone calls and organizing local events all because they strongly believe that the death penalty is the wrong choice for Kansas. Drew, Joanne and Tony are three very dedicated volunteers who have been helping KCADP in its mission to abolish the death penalty for many years.

DREW AND JOANNE BODNER



Drew and Joanne Bodner.

Drew and Joanne Bodner got involved with KCADP through their friendship with long time activist and board member Sr. Therese Bangert, SCL. They have supported repeal for decades, and remember being involved as far back as the 1970s. Their KCADP volunteer resume is quite long: tabling at speaking events, writing a letter to the editor, attending hearings, recruiting friends and family to get involved, and contacting their legislators. You name it, the Bodners have done it! Even when they don't have a "To Do" list from KCADP, they try to live their lives as advocates, sharing their experiences with friends and educating those around them about the death penalty. We are so grateful for all that they do!

TONY HIX



Tony Hix and his wife, Lisanne.

"Faithful" and "reliable" are two words Wichita organizer Jennifer Baysinger uses to describe volunteer Tony Hix. Tony, who lives in Winfield, has been volunteering with KCADP for more than two years. When it's time to make phone calls, organize events or deliver information to legislators, Tony is first in line to help. He truly has a passion for ending the death penalty in Kansas, and KCADP is fortunate to have him on board.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered during 2012! Your efforts are vital to our work to end the death penalty in Kansas, and we hope you will continue to donate your time in 2013! Wonder what you can do to help? Contact a KCADP organizer at info@ksabolition.org or 785-235-2237 for more information.

Upcoming Events

January 19th- An Evening with Mike Farrell, Kansas City, MO

Our neighbors at Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty are sponsoring this event with actor Mike Farrell, who played B.J. Hunnicut in M*A*S*H. He will talk about his work as a social justice advocate and supporter of death penalty repeal. For more information and to purchase \$10 tickets visit: <http://www.facebook.com/events/110879539078771/>.

January 30th- Kansas Abolition Day

Call your legislators and the Governor's office and ask them to support repeal of the death penalty!

February 2nd-Capital Punishment: Who is It Serving?, Wichita, KS

Join the Wichita Diocese and the Catholic Mobilizing Network for a program on the death penalty. Time: TBA. For more information contact KCADP at 785-235-2237 or info@ksabolition.org.

April 17th- Sr. Helen Prejean, Wichita, KS

Join Holy Savior Catholic Church and KCADP for an evening with renowned abolition advocate Sr. Helen Prejean. Wichita State University Metroplex, 7:00pm. For more information contact KCADP at 316-312-3689 or info@ksabolition.org.



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