

The Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty *is on the move...*

From the Executive Director...

HERE WE GO!

WELL THIS IS A column that is exciting to write. 2014 is our year... Get ready, mobilize and gear up! Starting now, KCADP is engaged in an all-out push for repeal!

As we move forward, the eyes of the national movement are on us. The expectations and hopes of funders and donors, as well as abolitionists in other states rise or fall on our success or failure. It is not only for our hopes and dreams – or even, as it is for many within KCADP, for the fulfillment of a lifetime of commitment that we must succeed. We are responsible for what happens in Kansas, knowing that it will affect the next wave of repeal.

Failure is not an option. The responsibility is heavy, but people believe we can do it and are counting on us – donors and funders, KCADP members, legislators who stand with us, the National Coalition Against the Death Penalty and

Equal Justice USA who back us to the point of even providing staff and expertise. We must be worthy of this faith and trust in us. So, as we move forward, I ask that each of you be “all in.”

For success, everything we hear indicates we must present KCADP as a welcoming “large tent” organization that offers abolition as a pragmatic, fiscally sound and common sense “Kansas” solution to public safety needs.

It will mean that before it is all over, many people will stand with us for many different reasons. Some reasons will not be your own personal reason for advocating for repeal. But all indications are that if we can successfully promote “the big tent” – and thus acquire the votes needed, we can abolish the death penalty.

It will take all of us – new and long-time volunteers, Board members, staff, members, faith leaders, Murder Victim Family members – and others who will



Mary Sloan, KCADP Executive Director

emerge as the campaign progresses -- to get to the day when there is once again a Kansas with no death penalty. It will take all of us working both hard and smart, and utilizing everything and everyone we've got. It's an all out effort from here on out.

So, now is the time. Be ready for a roller coaster ride this year. It will be fast and full of unexpected twists and turns. But if we do everything we can do and have a little luck, we can be cheering on the steps at the Statehouse in 2014.

LET'S GO!

The Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty is a 501(C)(3) single issue organization. Our only goal, with your help, is to achieve abolition in the state of Kansas.

Concerned Conservatives...

CONSERVATIVES are committed to three basic principles: limited government, fiscal responsibility, and protecting life. Since its reinstatement in the 1970s, the death penalty has failed in upholding these principles. Innocent individuals end up on death row with regularity, and some executions have gone forward despite compelling evidence that the condemned was innocent. It is difficult to reconcile a policy that poses such risks with promoting a culture of life. Furthermore, the death penalty costs taxpayers millions of dollars more than life in prison without possibility of parole. Given its track record, more conservatives now see the death penalty as a failed government program that needs to go.

This past March, a group called Conservatives Concerned about the Death Penalty (CCATDP) made its debut at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC). At CPAC, individual after individual came up to

CCATDP's booth and thanked us for being there. CCATDP supporter and conservative icon Richard Viguerie explains why more conservatives are rejecting the death penalty: “Conservatives have every reason to believe the death penalty system is no different from any politicized, costly, inefficient, bureaucratic, government-run operation, which we conservatives know are rife with injustice. But here the end result is the end of someone's life. In other words, it's a government system that kills people.”

As more conservatives help lead efforts to repeal the death penalty, it only makes sense that a red state like Kansas could be next in rejecting capital punishment. Kansas taking such a step would be a powerful statement that people across the political spectrum recognize that there are smarter, more effective alternatives to the death penalty.

~ Ben Jones, CCATDP

From the Board Chair...

ON JUNE 26, SEVEN YEARS ago, the US Supreme Court issued its ruling in *Kansas v. Marsh*. The core issue in that case was that Kansas law said that if the jury considering life and death found that the factors justifying death equaled those justifying life, the answer would be death. The US Supreme Court ruled that was acceptable. "If it's a tie, you die" is what this means in the simplest of terms.

Since that day, KCADP has not stopped working to help bring an end to the Kansas death penalty. When that decision came down, our organization was totally volunteer.

In the years since, we have added professional staff, added members and reached out to countless Kansas faith communities and organizations with education and action opportunities. Our current campaign is operative at a level we couldn't even dream of in 2006 when *Marsh* was decided.

As wonderful as our staff is, they alone cannot bring us to abolition. As Mary says in her column, we need every one "all in". EVERY-one--whether staff, KCADP member, or friend of abolition.

This newsletter details how the passions of abolition and biking combined for Bill Lucero as he raised money for KCADP and spread the message of abolition.

How can YOU help bring Kansas into the abolitionist ranks?

- If you have never donated before, your contribution would be matched 2:1 if it arrives by September 30th.



Donna Schneweis, KCADP
Board Chair

- Speak with your own legislators about your perspective on abolition and why it makes sense for Kansas.
- Organize a speaker or video event at your faith community or a local organization.
- Be a "Letter to the Editor" writer. Contact KCADP to get more information on how to help us in this vital arena.
- Bring a carload of persons to the Abolition Conference on October 19.

You don't have to be a bicycling enthusiast braving Kansas heat and rain to make a difference in our campaign. Every person, no matter their gifts or interests can bring much needed momentum.

HOW ARE YOU IN?

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST:

24th: Building in the faith community, KCADP will be attending and tabling at the *Catholic Diocese of Dodge City Stewardship Conference*.

SEPTEMBER:

26th: Join us in at the Hope Community Church in Andover (Wichita) for KCADP's first *Champions for Change Roast n' Toast* dinner event!

OCTOBER:

13th: Cheer on the KCADP running team at the *Prairie Fire Marathon* in Wichita! Pledge to the team or sign up and be part of the running team!

19th: Bring a car load of friends and join us in Topeka for KCADP's *Annual Abolition Conference*! Learn more about our push for abolition and what you can do to help!

NOTE: Our staff is working to schedule more speakers and events. Have an idea for an event? Contact us today!

Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty

P.O. Box 2065, Topeka, KS 66601

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Help KANSAS get one step closer to abolition!

DONATE TODAY!

Your donation will help cover the cost of materials, newsletters, and abolition work!

Don't forget, all first-time contributions qualify for our 2 to 1 matching grant!

Contribute immediately by going to

www.ksabolition.org



**KANSAS
COALITION
AGAINST THE
DEATH
PENALTY**
*Join the push for
Repeal!!*

Ride for Repeal...

BILL LUCERO RODE 100 miles on his bike, in the heat and rain, in a single day, to raise awareness to the death penalty repeal efforts here in Kansas.

Lucero, very vocal in his support for abolition, has been a registered Lobbyist for Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation for 35 years, as well as, a long-time activist for us here at the Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty .

Referencing his activism, Lucero stated, "I finally said to myself, 'You know, frankly, as a murder victim's family member, I don't see how there's any value in taking another person's life. My father was murdered. Reenact-

ing the death penalty in Kansas would do nothing for me and give me no sense of satisfaction.'"

In 1994, the bill that would reinstate the death penalty in Kansas became law, without signature from then-Governor Joan Finney. In response, Lucero and others staged a hunger strike outside the governor's office, starting his personal tradition of raising awareness for abolition.

"Forty years following my father's murder I am still working for repeal of the death penalty in Kansas. I know first-hand that capital punishment will not bring solace or closure to murder victim family members. Rather, I



Bill Lucero after his 100 mile ride

believe this method of retribution only hardens affected families and perpetuates an endless cycle of suffering."

KCADP would like to thank Bill for all his efforts on and off his bike. Lucero raised over \$2,500 during his Ride for Repeal!

THANK YOU BILL!

Champions for Change...

MARK YOUR CALENDARS and join us on Thursday, September 26th at Hope Community Church located in Andover, KS, from 7pm-9pm for *Champions for Change*, event, a Roast n' Toast dinner!

Join us for dinner and live musical entertainment while we will honor our ...

Champions for Change:

Representative Steven Becker, House Champion.

Senator Carolyn McGinn, Senate Champion.

Bishop Scott Jones, Honored Faith Leader.

Father Shawn Streepy (former prosecutor), Honored Law Enforcement Leader.

Mr. Bob Hessman, Honored Murder Victim Family Member Leader.

Keep checking out Facebook and Twitter feed for more details!

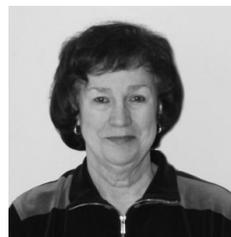
2013 Annual Abolition Conference...

TELL YOUR FRIENDS about the Annual KCADP Abolition Conference in Topeka and join us on October 19th for a full day of workshops and presentations!

Do you have a certain talking point you would like to learn more about? Keep watch in your email for a survey about the workshops and let us know your

ideas!

Listen to Keynote Speaker Vicki Schieber, the mother of Shannon Schieber, who was just 23 years old when she was brutally raped and murdered in 1998. Mrs. Schieber, who is now the Education Coordinator at the Catholic Mobilizing Network, speaks in favor of death penalty repeal legislation.



Vicki Schieber, Keynote Speaker

Calling all Advocates! 2014 is the year for Repeal and the Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty is **on the move!**

Contact us today to see how you can join the **Push for Repeal!**

KANSAS COALITION AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

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Volunteer Spotlight...

MARILYN IS ONE OF OUR



Marilyn Trechter,
KCADP Volunteer

longest serving and most dedicated volunteers. A born and raised Kansan, Marilyn lives in Topeka and belongs to Christ the King Catholic Church. She attended Catholic schools and was aware of the Catholic Church's opposition to capital punishment, but she didn't really give it any thought until 1991 when she became an Associate of the Congregation of St. Jo-

seph, an experience that encouraged her to pray and learn more about this difficult issue. This is also how she grew familiar with the work of Sr. Helen Prejean.

Marilyn will tell you that the main reason she opposes the death penalty is because of her respect for all life. She is also greatly concerned about the risk of executing an innocent individual. However, the death penalty became a personal issue in 2003 when Marilyn's cousin, Kaysi McLeod, was abducted, raped, and murdered in Colorado. As the family member of a murder victim, Marilyn has felt a pain

that most of us can't even imagine. Her opposition to capital punishment did not waver; she continues to advocate for repeal, knowing that the death penalty fails murder victims' families.

As a KCADP volunteer, Marilyn loves to help out the Topeka office. Choosing mainly to work "behind the scenes", she assists staff with research and faith outreach. She tables at local conferences and conventions. She personally writes Catholic leaders to share her story. And she keeps her friends and loved ones up to date on the repeal

movement, especially her sister in California who actively supported Prop 34 due to Marilyn's influence. Marilyn celebrated Maryland's repeal even though she was hospitalized for a serious illness!

We are grateful to have Marilyn on our team! If you want to learn more, check out her book, *Timeless Wisdom: Reflections on the Maxims for the 21st Century*.

Thank you Marilyn for your many years of dedication!