

Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty

KCADP is a 501(C)(3) organization with the single goal of repealing the death penalty in Kansas.

From the Executive Director...

Did we say on the move?

Yes, KCADP stays on the move! If you read my last column you know that 2014 is our year and that KCADP, and hopefully you, are gearing up for an all-out push for repeal!

KCADP is hosting many different and are exciting activities!

We just held our **Champions for Change** event on September 26th, where we honored our legislative Champions, Senator Carolyn McGinn and Representative Steven Becker, along with Community Leaders, Fr. Shawn Streepy, Bob Hessman and Bishop Scott Jones.

Now we look forward to October 13th and the **Run for Repeal**. Don't worry there is still time to sign up to be on the team or to sponsor the team!

Next, our **Annual Abolition Conference** in Topeka on October 19th - bringing our activists together and with keynote speaker, Vicki Schieber, of the

Catholic Mobilizing Network.

So - we are off on the path to repeal! Donna's message in this newsletter notes how you can be a Champion, too. And there is no doubt; we will need as many Champions in as many areas around the state as possible.

My message today, then, is about stamina and courage. Both of these intangible but important factors will be critical to our success. We must stay the course -- and not be intimidated by either the significance of what we are doing or by the naysayers we will encounter.

Yes, our task is important -- make no mistake about it. Our goal is no less than ridding Kansas of the unnecessary and costly hold-over from the past that risks execution of the innocent and prolongs the suffering of victim's families.

And, yes, there will be naysayers who predict our defeat and pronounce our mission impossible. (Every



Mary Sloan, KCADP Executive Director

group of visionaries has been told their goal was impossible, premature and inadvisable.) But in the phrasing of that now iconic saying -- we will "keep calm and carry on." And we will take a deep breath, keep moving, keep working and we will prevail.

Join us at our **Annual Abolition Conference**, and support our **Run for Repeal** runners if you can! Please contact our office at any time about events in your community or questions you might have.

There's a lot to do, but together we can do it!

**KANSAS
COALITION
AGAINST THE
DEATH
PENALTY**

2013 Abolition Conference

**THIS EVENT IS FREE AND
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Please join us on **Saturday, October 19th, 1:30pm to 4:30pm** at the **First Christian Church of Topeka, located at 1880 SW Gage Blvd, Topeka, KS 66604**. Come and 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, share her unique perspective on the death penalty. Mrs. Schieber is now the Education Coordinator at the Catholic Mobilizing Network to End the Use of the Death Penalty and is Chair of Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights'. The Annual Meeting for KCADP will start at 1 p.m. All KCADP members are invited to attend. The brief meeting will include election of new officers as well as proposed bylaws changes. The nominee slate and bylaws changes will be posted on the web prior to Oct. 19th. We will be done in time to join the Conference by 1:30pm.

Registration starts at 1:00pm, to pre-register please call the KCADP office at 785-235-2237.

Run for Repeal

KCADP staff and supporters will be running the Prairie Fire Marathon, Half Marathon, and 5k races in Wichita, KS in support of KCADP's repeal efforts on October 13th! **To join KCADP's running team please contact Kristin Bollig in the Topeka office at (785) 235-0214**. If you prefer not to run, that is ok! But we still need your support! You can make a donation on our website or mail a check to our office!

**Kansas Coalition Against the Death Penalty
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From the Board Chair...



Donna Schneweis, KCADP
Board Chair

You be the champion!

Just a few days ago, K C A D P said thank you to some great Kansans that are part of the team of people across this wonderful state that are supporting the campaign to end the death penalty in Kansas. The event was called **Champions for Change** and, indeed, our honorees are all champions. We honored former District Court Judge, Rep. Steven Becker of Buhler, and long-time advocate Senator Carolyn McGinn of Sedgwick. Next we thanked Father Shawn Streepy, a former prosecutor for the Kansas US Attorney Office and Bishop Scott Jones of

the United Methodist Church. Along with these great champions, we recognized Bob Hessman who so courageously represents his family and other murder victim family members in Kansas that oppose the death penalty. So you may say, that's great, Donna, but what does it have to do with me? We need champions like YOU to join this team! You don't have to be a former prosecutor or a Bishop to champion the cause of repealing the death penalty in your community. Abolition champions are homemakers, business owners, teachers, farmers, young people and retirees. Champions are conservative, progressive, rural, urban, different faiths and political affiliations. You are a champion if you take the time to write a letter to the

editor and submit it to your local paper. A champion invites a KCADP speaker to their church or the local Rotary Club meeting. Talk to your neighbor and encourage them to sign up with KCADP, or inspire other champions by bringing a carload of friends to the **KCADP Annual Abolition Conference** October 19th in Topeka! Ultimately who must be the final champions for change are the members of the state legislature and the Governor, as ending capital punishment in Kansas requires changing the law. It's hearing from constituents like you that will help make champions at the Capital in Topeka. So who is a champion? It's individual citizens of Kansas that commit to taking action as we

build towards the 2014 state legislative session. Some of you can do a lot and others a little. It is all of us together that will successfully champion this campaign to repeal the death penalty in Kansas.

One Last Chance to meet our Match

We have a challenge grant that will match all new or increased gifts. We have raised about \$30,000 but we are going to have to leave money on the table unless supporters rally to help. So, make your tax-deductible gift today through the KCADP website or get a check to us before 9/30/13. You can make a donation and it will make a difference.