Alaskans Against the Death Penalty

Spring 2011 Newsletter



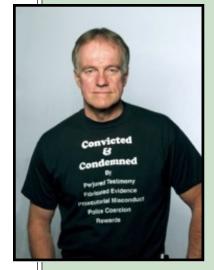


Alaskans Against the Death Penalty

🛛 Annual Chili Feed 🗖



Sunday, March 20th, 2011 @ 4:30 p.m. at the home of Hugh & Lanie Fleischer, 1401 W. 11th Ave., Anchorage



Food & Refreshments provided (regular & veggie)

Featured Speaker: Randy Steidl Sentenced to Death, Then Exonerated

We are honored to host Randy at our annual chili feed. Randy became the 18th person to be freed because of a wrongful conviction after serving time on the state's death row since Illinois reinstated the death penalty in 1977. Randy Steidl's strong witness helped to abolish capital punishment in New Mexico when he recently testified before the state senate. Even more recently, Randy has been instrumental in assisting the *Illinois Coalition Against the Death Penalty* with their death penalty repeal bill this year. The bill has passed both houses and currently sits on Governor Quinn's desk to be signed (see page 2).

Mark your calendar and bring friends! Donations encouraged

For more information about Randy, go to: http://witnesstoinnocence.org/ view_stories.php?Randy-Steidl-22

Contact Sue for information at 301-5005 or 276-5753 or scjohnson@gci.net

Auction Items Needed:

We have two major auctions coming up in July. Please ask your friends for donations of goods and services. We are bringing up several speakers this year and need your help. Air miles will help a lot for our travelling guests!

If you have items to donate, please contact Sue Johnson at 907-301-5005 or scjohnson@gci.net.

Randy will speak before a variety of groups while he is in Alaska:

March 20th

- St Mary's Episcopal @ 10:30
- AUUF from 2-4 pm
- Turnagain Methodist Church (tentative)

Chili Feed

- March 21st
 - Bartlett (tentative)
 - VA clinician group
 - UAA
- March 22nd
 - Homer

March 23rd

- Evening event hosted by The Innocence Project location TBA
- March 24th & 25th
 - Juneau, meet with friendly legislators and evening event

AADP Website

www.AADP.info/



Hugh Fleischer Danee Pontious Kathy Harris Cara McNamara Jamie McGrady Blanche Crandall Bill Pelke Rich Curtner Erika Kahill Salli Burgin **Mary Ellen Ashton Fred Dewey Celeste Hodge Theda Pittman** Sue C. Johnson *Coordinator*

Saving Trees & Time

Would you be interested in receiving your newsletter via

please your a label, your addre

receiving your newsletter via e-mail? If so, please tear off your address label, include your e-mail address, and send it to us.

Alaskans — Take Action!



Call Illinois Governor Quinn to sign the bill to end the death penalty

Illinois is just one signature away from becoming the 16th state without the death penalty. The General Assembly passed legislation to repeal the death penalty on January 11, 2011. Now the bill is awaiting Governor Pat Quinn's signature.

Governor Quinn said he encourages people with opinions to contact his office. In the past, he has indicated support for the death penalty, while also expressing concerns about the problems with the system. You can remind him that regardless of his position on the death penalty, Illinois' history has made clear the system is broken and our legislators sent the strong message that the

system can't be fixed. Illinois can no longer afford to keep our costly and error-ridden death penalty.

Chicago Office - 312-814-2121 Springfield Office - 217-782-0244

Please call Governor

Quinn to tell him you hope he'll sign the death penalty repeal bill.

You can say, "I want to encourage Gov. Quinn to sign the legislation to end the death penalty."

If you don't get through to a person or voicemail, please try again.

The Governor's staff won't ask you for reasons (they want to know if you support or oppose), but if you'd like talking points or more information, visit the <u>Illinois Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty</u> Website.

Mark Your Calendar!

Alaska Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (AKACDL) Annual Conference and Dinner/Dance

> JULY 7th & 8th in Girdwood Dinner/Dance on July 7th

Get your tickets now by contacting Sue at scjohnson@gci.net

Successful NCADP Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois!

Encouraged by significant declines in death sentences and executions, as well as increasing popular support for alternatives to capital punishment, nearly 350 people from around the country participated in NCADP's 2011 Conference entitled "Training For the Long Run: Building Momentum for Repeal." The annual event, convened this year from January 13 – 16 at the Renaissance Downtown Chicago Hotel, is the preeminent annual gathering of death penalty abolitionists, their allies and supporters.

"The conference captured the momentum that is taking place on this issue across the board," says NCADP Executive Director Diann Rust-Tierney. "Once again we brought together people representative of a broad swath of Ameri-



Sister Helen Prejean and Sue Johnson

cans: law enforcement. victims' rights advocates, defense lawyers, prosecutors, religious people and citizen advocates from around the nation. It was appropriate to meet in Illinois on the heels of its Legislature's passing SB 3539, the death penalty repeal measure, which awaits Governor Quinn's signature. Illinois had been a source of much of the momentum for Americans' re-examining the death

penalty and their calling for responsible steps to be taken in order to prevent innocent people from being executed."



Jeremy Schroeder (far left), ICADP Executive Director, and Illinois State Representative Karen Yarbrough (second from left) with ICADP staff and volunteers and Illinois State Senator Kwame Raoul (far right) at the NCADP 2011 Awards Dinner.

A "Thank You" from Rich Curtner, NCADP Board Chair



On behalf of NCADP's Board of Directors, I want to thank AADP for their contributions to the 2011 Conference Training for the Long Run: Building Momentum for Repeal.

This year's conference theme reflected the fact that our movement to end capital punishment in the U.S. is gathering force. In the last four years, more states have considered repeal legislation. New Jersey, New York and New Mexico abandoned the practice.

Alaskans at the conference were able to speak to the importance of continuing to organize and to educate the public and our Legislature about capital punishment in order to prevent any efforts for reinstatement for those states without a death penalty. It was a real honor to describe how successful AADP has been the past two years in stopping a reinstatement bill from even getting out of committee. Alaskans should be proud of your continued efforts to keep Alaska death penalty free. We are now a role model for other states.

Thank you all, and keep up the commitment and good work! *Rich*

A laskans Against the Death Penalty P.O. Box 202296

Anchorage, Alaska 99520 Sue C. Johnson, Coordinator scjohnson@gci.net or 276-5753

Website: www.aadp.info/

PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID ANCHORAGE, AK PERMIT NO. 500





The Abolition Alert newsletter is designed by Cathy L. Gleason, Gleason's Graphic Design