

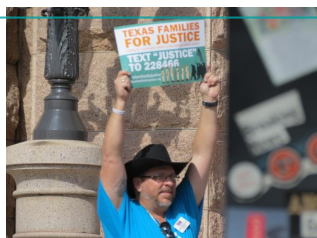
TiFA CONTACT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF TEXAS INMATE FAMILIES ASSOCIATION Vol. 22 No. 1 Jan.



RALLY! RALLY!

**Monday Feb. 13th
2017 at 1:00 pm**
Let your voice be heard!



RALLY! RALLY!

Feb. 13th 2017 on the South Steps of the Texas Capitol. Go to TIFA.org to register to get more information, maps & updates.

On February 13th 2017



RALLY! RALLY!

February 13th, 2017
We rally for the safe, humane and respectful treatment of our loved ones.



Heat, Transparency and Accountability in Texas Prisons

The following is an op-ed submitted by TIFA ED Jennifer Erschabek to the Houston Chronicle in response to the article published on Dec. 29, 2016 "Judge: Texas Must Give Number of Heat Related Prison Deaths."

Texas prisons are harsh and sometimes cruel, inhumane places where those who have committed crimes in Texas are often forgotten by society.

It doesn't matter if the crime was a forgery, driving drunk, or a capital murder. All of those who are convicted are subjected to the same harsh environment that includes deadly heat, lack of medical care, and neglect. Research reflects that an extended period in state prison can reduce someone's life span by ten years.

Prisons should be safe and humane places--with independent oversight that allows for accountability and transparency.

It is critical that prisons have their own internal accountability for identifying

How Does the State Protect Against Cruel and Unusual Punishment?

problems, informing management about these concerns, and addressing wrongdoing; however, these internal measures do not provide the information, public accountability, and transparency needed to preserve the lives of those who are incarcerated.

In the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), two of the internal processes include the Ombudsman's office and the TDCJ grievance system.

The Ombudsman office works with other agency staff to answer questions and address concerns from the public and legislative offices. In FY 2015, staff responded to approximately 23,226 inquiries.

However, the Ombudsman Office is not an investigative office; it works to answer questions and respond to inquiries. When families call in to report issues and

problems, the Ombudsman Office typically quotes TDCJ policy and procedure. They do not and will not investigate whether procedures are followed or ignored.

In 2015 and 2016, people in TDCJ custody filed over 151,000 grievances. Eighty percent of the grievances were about facility operations, complaints against staff, disciplinary, and medical issues.

Examples of some of these grievance issues include non-working fans, guards denying access to cool areas when people were in medical distress, availability of ice water, broken or contaminated water systems, and the inability to cool the building structures down to a reasonable temperature even at night.

Neither the grievance system or the Ombudsman office provides the accountability or transparency that assures families that their loved ones are being treated humanely or kept safe. Families are often frustrated with their inability to

TIFA Contact

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Note: We read all mail that is received but cannot answer every letter. Our mission is strengthening families through support, education and advocacy.



get answers or rectify a bad situation or wrongdoing in TDCJ. When a parent is fearful that his son is being abused or neglected, it is little consolation that 18% of complaints will eventually be resolved--through a policy or procedure change.

Recently U.S. District Judge Keith Ellison ordered the state to disclose the number of heat-related deaths since 1990 in Texas prisons. In Texas, less than a third of state prisons have air conditioning in all housing areas.

Judge Ellison wanted to know why TDCJ had not provided the information before a current lawsuit for that information. "We are not talking about how many widgets were sold out of a given factory," Judge Ellison said during the hearing. "We are talking about human lives, and I would be very distressed if the answer is the TDCJ does not even keep count of how many people died of heat-related illness."

Without outside, independent oversight, the public must depend on TDCJ to provide solutions to prison problems--and at least information like heat-death statistics.

Of course society has a right and an obligation to protect itself from those who have committed crimes. And of course people who have committed crimes must pay for the consequences of making bad decisions.

But it is not "of course" that the public must depend on the TDCJ Ombudsman for any prison problem's resolution, and for simple statistics that can help decision makers like the legislature decide how best to reform a system. Through transparency, we can focus on any cruel and unusual treatment, including death from boiling temperatures. Some people need to be imprisoned, but the law should protect them too.

The TDCJ needs transparency and accountability; currently, that cannot be resolved through their internal Ombudsman procedures, grievance system, or even the Office of the Attorney General who gathers the death statistics.

A lawsuit cannot even get an accurate count of heat-related deaths.

Bravo Judge Ellison! n

-Jennifer Erschabek, Executive Director

From Board Chair Patti Kassel



Hope

The definition of hope is an optimistic attitude of mind that is based on an expectation of positive outcomes related to events and circumstances in one's life or the world at large.

I love the positive spin on this definition. I think as this year unfolds, we should evaluate our attitudes towards hope, and think of organizations, people and places that will bring us hope for the coming year.

For us with incarcerated loved ones, we hope and pray every day for peace, comfort and in most cases their freedom someday. Our role is to optimistically give our loved ones hope for the future so they can continue to live in the circumstances that have been dealt them, remain emotionally and mentally healthy, and when freed, have a new-found hope in their future.

TIFA fosters that hope by bringing light to the darkness, and hope to the hopeless. How can you bring hope to others this year? Sharing your story with others and sharing TIFA might be a great start. n

Out of the Shadows



On Nov 17th, 2016 TIFA was invited to attend a convening, "Out of the Shadows: The Promise of Independent Prison Oversight" at the LBJ

Presidential Library in Austin, Texas.

Leaders with a range of expertise and perspectives were brought together from around the country to discuss jail and prison conditions and the need for increased oversight.

Convener Michele Deitch, Senior Lecturer at LBJ School of Public Affairs stated, "The convening was intended to tap into the national interest in criminal justice reform and law enforcement accountability, as well as the increasing media focus on deaths in jail custody, conditions of confinement, and private prisons.

The event was also a response to calls for increased oversight from the American Bar Association and other organizations, given how little meaningful external oversight currently exists for correctional facilities in the United States, especially in contrast to other Western nations.

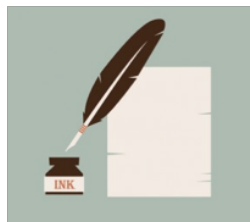
Deitch continued, "The time seems right to increase awareness of the critical importance of effective correctional oversight mechanisms and how such oversight is essential for the protection and humane treatment of people in custody, as well as for more effective re-entry outcomes."

The convening had three objectives:

- (1) ensure a shared understanding of the most effective models of oversight and the ways in which meaningful oversight mechanisms can better protect prisoners' rights and improve their treatment;
- (2) discuss ways to strengthen correctional oversight activities, especially in certain jurisdictions (including Texas); and
- (3) develop a coordinated approach to our work in this area and possible follow-up activities.

The meeting created some wonderful momentum on these issues and TIFA looks forward to working and sharing ideas with this group. [n](#)

You can now get discounted Anniversary shirts at TIFA.org. Sizes are limited. Rally shirts coming soon!



Inmates, Writing

By Terri LeClerc, Ph.D.

Why do those locked Inside the Walls write? They fill journals; they send letters; and they create short stories, poems, novels. I wonder if their need to write is the same as, or different from, those on the Outside.

All people write to understand themselves—that's why journaling is so popular. And many people write to communicate to others: their feelings, their experiences, their imaginations. Stephen King said, "I was made to write stories and I love to write stories. That's why I do it. I really can't imagine doing anything else and I can't imagine not doing what I do."

And novelist prison-activist John Grisham had something ironic to say: "If I didn't write, what else would I do?"

All of these reasons hit me stronger than ever when I opened a letter from a new correspondent. He first wrote about listening to The Prison Show on KPFT, then joked about scoring the KPFT speakers 1-10. But then, then... he hoped to hear back from me before his Feb. 2, 2017, execution date. Whoa.

Mr. James Ramirez, Polunsky Unit, gave me permission to share some of his poems, and I simply must do so. In this column, I want you to learn his earlier, 2011 feelings and experiences; in a future column, I will update you on the amazing changes in Mr. Ramirez' feelings, experiences, and even goals.

"Death Gotta Be Easy"

- by James Ramirez, Polunsky Unit

I can't even lie, when I say I miss my ways.

I miss chilling in my hood, those were the best days.

I guess I should've known eventually, this all would change.

But I can't help to think about it, cuz it feels so strange.

The funny thing about all that is if I get out again, I'll be right back to my lil life of sin.

I can't help it, cuz this is just who I be.

Did you really think doing time would change me from a Gxx Hell? Nah never that, cuz you can never go back.

No extra lives or do-overs, at the end of this game.

Trying to survive my situation, without going insane.

And steady wondering where I went wrong, & who's to blame.

They always said I'd end up dead, or wind up in jail.

I never thought it would be both in this man-made hell.

I shed fears not tears, cuz I learned never to cry.

Though all along, deep within, my heart's crying inside.

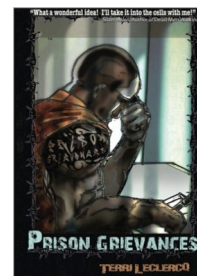
Whew.

Perhaps you or your Loved One also writes—I hope so. As you see, recording your feelings and emotions creates that solid path you can turn and evaluate, perhaps even appreciate.

Short story writer Eudora Welty said, "The novelist works neither to correct nor to condone, not at all to comfort, but to make what's told alive." I am writing this column to keep Mr. Ramirez alive. [n](#)

*Terri LeClerc, Ph.D.,
is the author of
**Prison
Grievances:
when to write, how to write***

This fabulous graphic novel offers in cartoon form all sorts of hints, artwork, and check-lists for writing a successful grievance. You can order it through AmazonSmile. [n](#)



News from the Chapters

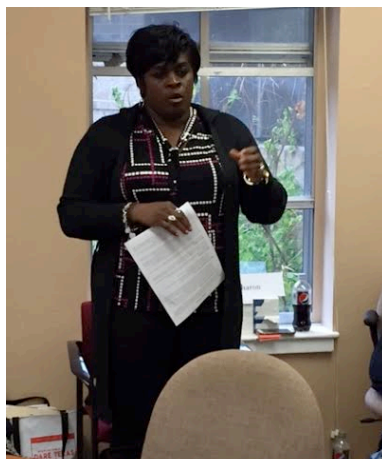
Chapter Chairs Meet in Austin

On Saturday, December 3, TIFA brought together chapter chairs from around the state for a meeting in Austin. The meeting provided everyone a chance to meet each other, socialize, participate in trainings, and meet the new TDCJ Ombudsman Coordinator, Cassandra McGilbra.

Ms. McGilbra shared her thoughts and expectations about her new position and what she hopes she can do to improve the services provided by the office. Her background includes work as a Grievance Supervisor and Victim and Peer Educator with PREA.

Ms. McGilbra explained that the Ombudsman office works with other agency staff to answer questions and address concerns from the public and legislative offices. In FY 2015, her staff of 13 responded to approximately 23,226 inquiries received through the mail, telephone and the Internet.

Ms. McGilbra's vision for the Ombudsman Office is for the public and TDCJ staff to understand what the office is responsible for and match perception to reality. She wants to "mine the gap of perception vs. reality" to provide more robust answers to inquiries. But this will take training on both sides. She plans to use her investigative skills to be able to look at reports and information to determine what is really happening.



Cassandra McGilbra, TDCJ Ombudsman Coordinator

Her goal is to have her staff do more research on inquiries to provide more information in order to eliminate additional questions. Some people do not really know what they are asking. And once the Ombudsman Office starts giving more finite, robust answers to inquiries it will eliminate some of the work.

Her office and the grievance office are located together. She will be working to identify and eliminate duplication of inquiries and investigations between the two offices. They want to match the processes. "The offender is using the grievance process. Once that process has finished, then we will work the issue, especially when it's a disciplinary issue. We have to respect the time frame issues. We don't want to contradict a finding," said Ms. McGilbra.

TIFA always recommends that incarcerated family members first try to resolve issues at the unit level through the grievance procedure. Concerned family members should contact the warden to let the warden know of their concerns. If this is unsuccessful, then issues should be taken to either the Regional Office or the Ombudsman Office.

After Ms. Gilbra's presentation we had a wonderful lunch provided by Lauren Johnson. We would like to give Lauren a big shout-out and thank you an amazing lunch. We were definitely a happy group.

n

Chapter Meetings Around the State

During November and December TIFA members gathered at their chapter meetings to enjoy each other's company and sign Christmas cards for friends and family members in TDCJ.

The Austin Chapter concluded their clothing drive and delivered an amazing



TIFA Chapter Chairs Gathering in Austin in 2016

selection of clothes to Bill Kleiber, Executive Director of Restorative Justice Ministries Network. His ministry mans the bus station in Huntsville and greets men who are released from the Walls Unit and have no family to pick them up. These men are released with the clothes on their back, a bus voucher and \$50. Bill meets them at the bus station, provides directions to services, applications for free phones and gives them with an extra article of clothing that has been donated.

With the onset of Winter he is now appealing for donations of coats and clothes for individuals being released from Texas prisons. He asked that you please consider having your group or church collect clothes and coats for needy individuals. Once collected you can contact RJMN at 1-800-998-3004 or kleiber@sbcglobal to assist with transporting the donations. n



San Antonio Christmas card signing



Estelle Unit Parole Forum

By Sharon Bass

On Oct 28, 2016 Jennifer Erschabek and Sharon Bass attended a Parole Forum at the Estelle Unit organized by Chaplain Moss and Field Minister Michael Ryan. Over 200 inmates attended and after a two hour presentation there was no time to answer all the questions. We promised to answer the questions and send them back to Estelle but also thought that everyone would have the same questions. So in the next few newsletters we will be sharing the Q & As.

1. How much does a parole lawyer help for parole?

Each case is different. You do not need a parole attorney, and the Parole Board does not require anything needed from an attorney in order to make a parole decision. You and your family will do the work required to put together the parole packet with or without a lawyer.

2. Explain that even non agg offenders do not get to keep their good time when they make parole, why aren't they discharging with their good time? Rather than losing it and being put on parole.

In 1996 the law changed and Mandatory Supervision was changed to Discretionary Mandatory Supervision. If you were sentenced after 9/96 you do not have a mandatory discharge date. Good time credits are for calculating a parole review eligibility date only.

3. When you see re-entry, is it a sign that you are going home?

If you are near your parole review eligibility date you will see re-entry. It is

not a sign you are going home, but that TDCJ is starting the application processes for your identification documents.

The Reentry Program provides a three-phase reentry program designed to prepare offenders for a successful return to the community after release from TDCJ.

- Phase I – Identification Processing – assists eligible offenders in obtaining replacement social security card, certified birth certificate, and state identification card at time of release.
- Phase II – Assessment and Reentry Planning – completion of risk and needs assessment with individual case planning provided to those at moderate to high risk of re-offending.
- Phase III – Community Reentry Services – provides post-release individual case management, employment readiness training and employment services.
- Veterans Reentry Services – assist veterans in obtaining record of military services, completion of veteran's benefits application, linkage to military peer support services and continuity of care.

4. There were severe factual errors in my prison jacket. For example, someone else's TDC file mixed in with my file and a DVD that depicted a man re-enacting a crime that I know I did not do. What chance do I have for parole if things like this are in my parole file? These extra files and DV scenarios make me out to be a serial killer or worse.

You need to write the State Counsel for Offenders and get help correcting the error. The parole board only has a summary of your charges. They do not have DVD's or other documents from your file, only a summary written by the DA.

5. How do you prepare a parole packet for stacked sentences?

You prepare a packet for the first sentence as you would any sentence. The Parole Board is interested in any remorse you may have, changes you have made, progress in education/rehabilitation classes and support from your family and friends.

6. How can you have an aggravated sentence when your sentence is not aggravated?

If you mean "being treated aggravated" because of the amount of time you are

doing it does not mean your case is being treated aggravated. Based upon the Parole Board's assessment, they have decided not to grant parole at this time. Remember parole is a privilege and it is at the discretion of the parole board whether to release you or not.

7. Why does the nature of offense tend to be the main reason for set-offs even though the crime committed happened 29 years ago? That will not change. Essentially the BPP takes away any hope for release. Also, I have already submitted a parole package back in 2012-13. Should I submit another one?

You should update any new information each year. A full packet only needs to be submitted every 5 years. The board has a list of denial reasons that they use. Unfortunately, they use nature of offense a lot and it just is what it is. Take all the classes you can take and stay out of trouble. Never lose hope because eventually the good will overshadow the bad.

8. When you sign for non-aggravated sentence in court and when you get to TDCJ, they make your time aggravated so that good time doesn't apply to you anymore.

This is hard to answer without looking at your sentence and judgment to see exactly what you are referring to. Your judgment is the controlling document. TDCJ cannot change your sentence. I suggest you get a copy of the judgment and send it along with a letter to State Counsel for Offenders.

9. Is there any way to get good time or work time that you lost back on your record so you can make parole?

No, you cannot recover lost good time.

10. Why does parole use your past record if you've already paid for that crime?

Arrest records and criminal history are always a part of the parole decision whether you have completed a sentence for a past conviction or not. **n**

**Don't forget to visit us at
TIFA.org to register for the rally
and sign the work time credit
and heat petitions!!!!!!**

Post Conviction Writs in Non-Capital Cases - Part One -

By Jim Skelton
TIFA Board Legal Advisor

1. Appellate Courts: Texas has a two-tiered court system for appeals. There are fourteen Courts of Appeal, sometimes called "intermediate courts." The courts of appeal must hear any appeal after a notice of appeal is filed in the trial court where the conviction occurred. This notice of appeal must be filed within 30-days after the date of the conviction. Once the notice of appeal is filed, the court of appeals has jurisdiction to hear the case so long as the trial court signs a certificate stating that the accused has the right to appeal. The trial court can deny the right to appeal when there has been a negotiated plea of guilty, meaning there was a plea bargain between the Accused and the State that was followed by the trial judge. The only exception to this rule is when there are written pretrial motions – such as a motion to suppress – that were overruled prior to the guilty plea. In that case, the Accused can appeal the trial court's ruling on the pretrial motions. Otherwise, the trial court must certify that the Accused has the right to appeal.

An appeal to the court of appeals is heard by a three judge panel. One of the judges will write the opinion and the other two judges will either join the opinion or write a concurring or dissenting opinions. It takes to vote of two judges to decide the case. There are two types of opinions – published and non-published. The published opinion may be later used as "authority" in future cases whereas the non-published opinion are used only as a way of illustration and are not considered authority that future courts should follow.

If a party loses in the court of appeals, that party may ask the court of criminal appeal to review the court of appeals decision and either affirm or reverse the court of appeals' opinion. This request is called a "petition for discretionary review," often times referred to as a "PDR." Unlike

the court of appeals, the court of criminal appeals can deny hearing an appeal. It is within their discretion to refuse to hear an appeal from the court of appeals decision. The court of criminal appeals consists of nine judges and it takes the votes of four of the nine judges to grant a review of the court of appeals. The PDR must be filed with 30-days after the court of appeals renders its decision.

2. Appellate Structure: There are two remedies involved when a person has been convicted of an offense. The first is called a "direct appeal." Except for cases where the death penalty is assessed, all direct appeals are heard by the courts of appeal. In those cases involving the death penalty, the direct appeal by-passes the court of appeals and is heard only by the court of criminal appeals.



Once the conviction "becomes final," meaning the appellate courts have affirmed the conviction, the convicted person may file a post-conviction writ of habeas corpus. There is one major difference between a post-conviction writ and a direct appeal. Only constitutional violations may be considered in a post-conviction writ whereas in a direct appeal, any violation that deprives the Accused of a fair trial may be considered. There is no statutory dead-line as to when this writ must be filed, but if there is an undue delay in filing the writ it may be barred by what is called the "doctrine of laches" – a theory which courts employ in determining whether to grant relief in any given 11.07 case. In such a case, the State not longer required to make a particularized showing of prejudice, and the definition of prejudice is expanded to include anything that places the State in a less favorable position, including prejudice to the State's ability to retry an Accused.

Also keep in mind that, as a general rule, you only get one "bite at the apple." Subsequent writs are usually denied as "an abuse of the writ" and are only granted in limited circumstances. If a subsequent writ is filed, a court may not consider the merits of or grant relief based on the subsequent application unless the application contains sufficient specific facts establishing that: (1) the current claims and issues have not been and could not have been presented previously in a timely initial application or in a previously considered application because the factual or legal basis for the claim was unavailable on the date the applicant filed the previous application; (2) by a preponderance of the evidence, but for a violation of the United States Constitution no rational juror could have found the applicant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

3. Post-Conviction Writs: The statutes governing post-conviction writs is found in Chapter 7 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. There is a specific form that must be used on an 11.07 writ. This form is found on the court of criminal appeals web-page. It must be used and may not be altered by deleting paragraphs that are not applicable to a specific case. If there are alterations to the required form, the writ application will be dismissed, so download the form and fill in all the applicable blanks. Once the form is filled out, it may be supplemented by a memorandum in support of the writ application that may contain witness affidavits, arguments, and any other relevant written documents.

Once the writ is prepared, it must be filed in the court where the trial took place. This is often referred to as "the convicting court." Once the writ is filed, the clerk of that court will assign a case number ancillary to the conviction being challenged, and forward a copy of the application to the state's attorney. The state attorney must "answer the application" within 15 days after he or she receives a copy of the writ application. Within 20 days after the expiration of the time in which the state is allowed to answer, the convicting court must decide if there are controverted, previously unresolved facts material to the legality of the applicant's confinement. If the convicting court decides that there are no such issues, the clerk shall immediately transmit to the court of criminal appeals a copy of the application, any answers filed,

and a certificate reciting the date upon which that finding was made. Failure of the court to act within the allowed 20 days shall constitute such a finding.

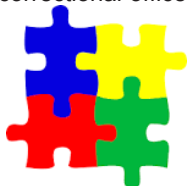
If the convicting court decides that there are controverted, previously unresolved facts, it must enter an order within 20 days of the expiration of the time allowed for the state to reply, designating the issues of fact to be resolved. To resolve those issues the court may order affidavits, depositions, interrogatories, additional forensic testing, and hearings, as well as using personal recollection. The convicting court may appoint an attorney or a magistrate to hold a hearing and make findings of fact. The reporter who transcribe a hearing must prepare a transcript within 15 days of its conclusion. On completion of the transcript, the reporter must transmit the transcript to the clerk of the convicting court. After the convicting court makes findings of fact or approves the findings of the person designated to make them, the clerk of the convicting court must transmit to the court of criminal appeals the writ application, any answers filed, any motions filed, transcripts of all depositions and hearings, any affidavits, and any other matters such as records used by the court in resolving issues of fact. **n**

In our next newsletter **Part Two of Post Conviction Writs** will cover 4) Counsel, 5) Preparing the Writ, 6) The Function of the Courts, and 7) General Comments.

Never Give Up!

By Patrick Capps

My name is Patrick Capps, and I am the assistant chair of the Nacogdoches/Lufkin TIFA chapter. I have held this position since Nov of 2015. I have previously served a sentence on the "state jail side" at Bradshaw State Jail. I am also a former correctional officer. For a brief period in



2007, back when CCA had the contract there, I was employed as an officer at the Diboll Unit.

Earlier in 2016, I was diagnosed with autism.

To the best of my knowledge, I am the only known person currently in a TIFA leadership position who has autism. The reason I am sharing my story is to help

eradicate the stigma which comes with autism. There are people with autism who have learning disabilities, and there are also people with autism who are highly intelligent. I fall into the latter category. When I was in school, I was in the "gifted and talented" programs. I would call this stigma what it truly is, but I doubt any of my TIFA colleagues want me using that type of language.

I have my struggles associated with autism, but I don't view myself in a negative manner. To be quite honest (and I know this will sound strange), I am honored to have autism. I figure God had a reason for making me the way He did, so who am I to quibble?

I am thankful for people like Melba Tiller (Nacogdoches/Lufkin chapter chair) and Sharon Bass (TIFA regional director) for taking a chance on me when nobody else would. They believed in me, and they believed I could make a positive impact. They have helped me prove people with autism can be successful in leadership positions. I am doing better now than I ever did before I went to Bradshaw.

Let's talk about Bradshaw for a moment. Doing time is difficult enough when you have all of your faculties, but it is doubly tough when your fellow offenders suspect you have autism (I wasn't officially diagnosed until more than a year after I left Bradshaw). I was supposed to do a year there, but after four months, my sentencing judge put me on five years "shock probation".

I have a girlfriend who is doing a stretch at the Crain Unit. We will celebrate our fourth anniversary in January. To say I am blown away that she has stuck by me throughout all of my issues is an understatement.

I have had the same employer since June 2015, and I purchased my first new vehicle in June 2016. What advice would

I give to people with autism, or to people who have a loved one with autism? "Don't give up. With the right support and therapy, you or your loved one can still have a successful life." **n**



Patrick Capps
- Nacogdoches Asst Chair



Calling All Storytellers!!

We are still collecting stories. So if you would like to submit one there is time.

Why? Because stories are the way that we impact people, and policy. The first time I walked into the legislature to testify for a bill, and I saw that there were research and policy analysts there to talk about why passing the bill would be beneficial, I wrongly felt like those were the important people to have in the room. What I have learned in the time since then, is that while research and data are an important supplement, the thing that creates the biggest impact, is our personal stories. Stories are what connect us to each other, they help us see ourselves in others and the other way around!

If you have a story that would highlight the legislative priorities we have chosen we want to read it! For instance, an easy example is a story that would support the need for independent oversight.

Guidelines for submission: You can write a story about one policy, or all of them, but each topic must be on a separate sheet of paper. Keep the length around one to one and a half pages (if typed) but not less than a paragraph long, or between 500-1000 words.

Be clear- stay on point with the purpose of why you are telling your story. If you want a format to follow, you can, (but are not required to) use the story of self, story of us, and story of now as a way to think about it. The story of self is about your personal story, how you are connected to the issue, and how it has impacted you and/or your family. The story of us is how this issue impacts others, the community, etc. and the story of now is what do you want to see done to change this issue. Please be sure to include your name and number (if applicable) at the end.

Please email your story to tifa@tifa.org or mail to TIFA, PO Box 300220, Austin, Tx. 78703 **n**



Texas Inmate Families Association

Strengthening families through support, education, and advocacy

TIFA
PO Box 300220
Austin, TX 78703-0004

CONTACT
Vol.22 No. 1 Jan. 2017

TIFA Chapters

Amarillo

Currently Reorganizing
Check our website
www.tifa.org
for meeting information

Austin- Central

2nd Monday, 6:30 pm
AGE Center
3710 Cedar Street
Austin, Tx 78703
(512) 371-0900

Beaumont

1st Tuesday, 6:30 pm
St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic
Church Family Life Center
6825 Gladys
Beaumont, TX 77726
(409) 617-8395

Conroe

Last Monday, 7:00 pm
Eagle's Nest Ministries
1450 Blake Road
Conroe, TX 77304
(281) 435-9908

Corpus Christi

2nd Tuesday, 7:00 pm
New Life Behavior Ministries
3833 S. Staples, Suite S-103
Corpus Christi, TX 78411
(361) 813-7106

Dallas

3rd Wednesday, 6:30 pm
Lover's Lane Methodist Church
9200 Inwood Rd Oxford Rm #103/105
Dallas, TX 75220
(817) 219-1628

Ft. Worth

1st Monday, 6:30 pm
St. Christopher Episcopal Church
3550 S.W. Loop 820
Fort Worth, TX 76133
(817) 798-9010

Houston

2nd Tuesday, 7:00 pm
Workfaith Connection
(Dacoma Location)
10120 Northwest Fwy 290 Suite 200
Houston, TX 77092
(281) 435-4143

Humble

2nd Thursday, 7:00 pm
First United Methodist Church
800 E Main St
Humble, Texas 77355
(936) 442-0859

Killeen - Harker Heights

2nd Thursday, 6:00 pm
VFW (Ladies Auxiliary)
201 VFW Dr
Harker Heights, TX 76548
(254) 289-9429

Nacogdoches/Lufkin

3rd Saturday 10:00 am
First Baptist Church
411 North Street
Nacogdoches, TX 65961
(936) 564-4546

McAllen

3rd Friday, 6:00
Calvary Baptist Church
Slayton Building 2nd Floor
1600 Harvey Drive
McAllen, Texas 78501
(956) 280-0951

Paris

2nd Saturday at 2:00 pm (temporary)
Christ Community Church (in building
with Nautilus fitness)
116 S Collegiate Dr
Paris, TX 75460
(903) 495-0018

Pearland - South Houston

3rd Tuesday, 6:30 pm
Manvel Bible Chapel
4230 FM 1128
Pearland, TX 77584
(713) 303-9785

San Antonio

2nd Tuesday, 7:00 pm
St. Vincent De Paul Catholic
Church Parish Hall
4222 Southwest Loop 410
San Antonio, TX
(210) 387-1558

San Antonio - North

3rd Thursday, 6:30 pm
St Marks Evangelist
Catholic Church
1602 Thousand Oaks Dr.
San Antonio, TX
(915) 204-5870

Tyler

2nd Thursday, 6:30 pm
Freedom Fellowship
2915 SSE Loop 323
Tyler, Texas 75701
(903) 504-9771

Waco

3rd Thursday, 6:30 pm
Waco Hispanic Chamber
of Commerce
915 La Salle Ave
Waco, TX 76706

Check our website and calendar for new TIFA Chapters starting near you. www.tifa.org

If you are interested in starting a TIFA chapter in your area, please contact the TIFA office. (512) 371-0900 or send an email to tifa@tifa.org