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LSPC Newsletter, July 2021

# All of Us or None National Chapters Growing Together

## Message from the Executive Director



*Dorsey Nunn*

Recently I had the honor of traveling to Milwaukee to participate in the [All of Us or None Wisconsin](#) chapter's first annual Justice Ball. Chapter President Caliph Muab-el and AOUON WI members put together an amazing gala—bringing together members of the community to recognize formerly incarcerated organizers, family members, and local and state politicians in a professionally produced and extremely exciting celebration of movement advocacy.

The fact that they organized such a meaningful event in less than 30 days, with more than 400 people—including 30 elected officials—showing solid support for the chapter, made the night even more special.

As someone who was there at our beginning in Oakland, CA in 2003, I am very proud of the work All of Us or None is doing across the country. From starting with a few small chapters in California to having now over 30 spread out across the country, All of Us or None continues to grow and make significant, substantive change to the benefit of our communities at the local and state levels. It is extremely satisfying to see all the training and support we've provided local chapters lead to the point where some are now able to not only stand on their own feet, but run with purpose and poise.

I'd like to thank AOUON National Organizer Oscar Flores for his dedication and effectiveness in growing All of Us or None's engagement and presence over the



past four years—he's also logged in many miles travelling to personally work with chapters to build their organizing and advocacy skills. Our California chapters have grown so much we've dedicated an organizer just to our Golden State members: AOUON CA Chapter Organizer Paul B, a former 2019 & 2020 Elder Freeman Policy Fellow.



Growing nationally has also allowed us to more effectively share strategies and our successes, as well as our setbacks. Our AOUON National Convening in 2019 allowed organizers from all the chapters to come to the Freedom & Movement Center in Oakland to learn from each other, as well as support each other. And as we grow larger, it's more important than ever that AOUON chapters grow together—in terms of our objectives, methods, and mutual support—especially as larger national organizations try to co-opt our work and messaging, or even try to peel off our chapters to add window dressing to their own work.



As All of Us or None has taken almost 20 years to become an effective national advocacy organization, we must also remember that our communities are made up of individuals who are still processing the experiences and trauma of incarceration, and continually figuring out how best to serve their families and communities. I left San Quentin over 40 years ago pondering how best I could follow the guidance from my elder Kalima to “Return to the community as an asset, not as a liability.” I find myself continually reflecting on his teachings, continually working through all I learned in prison, and how to put those thoughts into action to best serve our community.

Seeing all the work our chapters do, I am heartened and reinvigorated that so many of us are sharing this journey together. In addition to Caliph's organizing and advocacy in Wisconsin, some other great chapter work includes:

- Tia Ryan went from starting an AOUON chapter in Northern New Jersey to buying a building and opening transitional housing, all in just a few years;
- Ucedrah Osby developed a support network for people coming out of prisons in the Central Valley, CA;
- Steve Huerta created an extensive and effective voter registration database and outreach strategy for formerly incarcerated people in San Antonio, TX;
- Voyna Quarles built up transitional housing programs for women and children in Riverside, CA all while effectively advocating for policy change at the city, county, and state levels;

- And so much other great work in all the other chapters. [Subscribe to the AOUON Newspaper](#) to keep all with all the policy campaigns and events across the country!

Now we need everyone working together, more than ever. Our current [state and national campaign to Abolish Bondage Collectively](#) and rid our governing documents of the vestiges of slavery and involuntary servitude is already facing entrenched opposition from the prisons and businesses who profit off our incarcerated labor.



I invite you to [join our campaign](#), and help build All of Us or None into a national voice that rings strong and sure from coast to coast, a voice that delivers a message policymakers have no choice but to hear and respond to, a voice that speaks from our direct experience and with our expertise.

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## Why I Give

LSPC would like to thank all the individuals and organizations who contributed during Juneteenth—our first federally holiday to recognize both the institution of slavery and the emancipation of most privately enslaved people in 1865. As Dorsey shared last month, Juneteenth is also an opportunity to recognize that slavery and involuntary servitude is still very much present in our modern society, kept alive in our



governing documents with “exception clauses” for “punishment of a crime” and thus transferred to the prison industrial complex. Thank you for all your support to our [Abolish Bondage Collectively campaign](#), and we’ll see you on the path to pass ACA 3!

Why do you give? Visit [our Facebook page](#) to share why you support LSPC. Click here to [make a contribution](#). Consider joining our Sustaining Giving Program by committing to give on a recurring basis. Contact Eric Norman, Director of Development at [eric@prisonerswithchildren.org](mailto:eric@prisonerswithchildren.org) with any questions.

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## Policy Update

For CA legislative work, SB 731, SB 416, SB 567, SB 586, SB 354, AB 937, and AB 990 have all passed their respective houses and will be heard in committee in the second house over the next 2 weeks. Keep an eye out for our announcements when hearings are scheduled so you can call in your support!

ACA 3, which will remove involuntary servitude from the CA constitution, [passed the Assembly Public Safety Committee](#) and is currently in the Appropriations Committee.

For our Abolish Bondage Collectively (ABC) campaign, we are looking for people to join the [sub-committees](#), which are having their first meetings this week.



You can also join our ABC #FightForFreedom campaign by following and sharing our social media accounts:

Twitter: [@TogetherABC](#)

Instagram: [AbolishBondageCollectively](#) (@TogetherABC)

On the federal level, we are excited to partner with Congresswoman Cori Bush (MO-01) on the [People's Response Act](#), which would transform our approach to public safety from policing to public health.

For more information about our Policy Platform, or if you want to get involved, please contact LSPC Policy Manager Joanna Billings at: [policy@prisonerswithchildren.org](mailto:policy@prisonerswithchildren.org)

## **Family Unity Matters**

**AB 990 will be heard in the Senate Public Safety Committee on Tuesday, July 13 in the 1:30 Session.**



AB 990 would restore incarcerated people's right to receive personal visits in Penal Code 2600-2601 as it existed from 1975-1994.

AB 990 would also prohibit denials of contact visits in CDCR for the following reasons:

- 1) as discipline for a rule violation that did not occur during visiting with the affected visitor
- 2) for errors or omissions on a visiting application if the correct or omitted information is in the applicant's DOJ criminal background report
- 3) based on the visitor's or incarcerated person's law enforcement contact history except for serious violations of visiting rules.

Help us expand visiting in CDCR by getting this bill through the Senate and the Governor's office!

- 1) Please **submit a support letter** via the legislative portal: <https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/> (submit as your org; submit to Senate Public Safety Committee) and send copies to [rita@prisonerswithchildren.org](mailto:rita@prisonerswithchildren.org) and to [zoquenda@rootandrebond.org](mailto:zoquenda@rootandrebond.org)
- 2) Please fill out this form to authorize us to **"Me Too" your organization during the hearing.** (All co-sponsors will be automatically included in the Me Toos.)  
Fill out this form: [bit.ly/AB990MeToo7-13](http://bit.ly/AB990MeToo7-13)
- 3) Individual **family members are encouraged to call in** during the public comment period of the July 13 hearing to express your support for the bill. For more information, go to [bit.ly/July13Toolkit](http://bit.ly/July13Toolkit)
- 4) **Sign up here to receive a text alert** on July 13 if you would like to know when AB 990 is being discussed at the hearing and if you want to call in as an individual in support of the bill:  
[bit.ly/July13TextAlerts](http://bit.ly/July13TextAlerts)

# MEMBERSHIP MEETING



**Tuesday, July 12  
6:00-7:30 pm online**

**Help us pass AB990 and restore visiting as a right!**

Attend this meeting to learn about:

- Calling in support during July 13 hearing
  - Attending AB 990 events in So Cal in August
  - Reaching out to your legislators
- Share your experiences with the reopening of visits.  
Make a group video for Twitter!

Register: [bit.ly/CFUMtg7-12-21](https://bit.ly/CFUMtg7-12-21)  
Join CFU: [bit.ly/JoinCFU](https://bit.ly/JoinCFU)



**To get involved in helping us pass this bill, please join the CFU at [bit.ly/JoinCFU](https://bit.ly/JoinCFU)**

Join our membership meeting on Monday, July 12, 6pm. Register here: <https://bit.ly/CFUMtg7-12-21>

For more information about AB 990 or the Coalition on Family Unity, contact FUM Coordinator Ivana Gonzalez at: [ivana@prisonerswithchildren.org](mailto:ivana@prisonerswithchildren.org)

## Fines & Fees

LSPC / All of Us or None is a proud member of the Debt Free Justice Coalition, which on July 1 announced:



*We're marking an important milestone for [#debtfreejustice](https://twitter.com/debtfreejustice), AB 1869 goes into effect TODAY! Counties & courts across CA can no longer charge or collect on 23 criminal administrative fees. And we're fighting for eliminating many more through SB 586! [#FinishTheFees](https://twitter.com/FinishTheFees)*

The [Fines & Fees Justice Center](#) explains which types of fees are ended:

*This bill repeals the authority of counties to charge defendants for 23 of the most harmful fees imposed in the criminal legal system including, administering probation and mandatory supervision, processing arrests and citations, and administering home detention programs, continuous electronic monitoring programs, work furlough programs, and work release programs. The bill also repeals the authority of the court to order the defendant to pay the costs of the public defender. The provisions of the bill take effect beginning July 1, 2021 and include an appropriation of \$65,000,000 to counties to backfill revenues lost from the repeal of these fees.*



You can read the full text of the bill [here](#) and a list of the 23 fees eliminated by AB 1869 [here](#).

For more information about LSPC's work to eliminate the Fines & Fees that adversely affect our community, contact AOUON Chapter Coordinator Paul B. at [paulb@prisonerswithchildren.org](mailto:paulb@prisonerswithchildren.org)

## **AOUON Community Engagement**

### **AOUON Sacramento**

"**Label Me Free**" *Restoring Our Humanity & Healing Our Souls* was held on Saturday, June 19th in Sacramento. The event included an amazing awards ceremony featuring the Life After Time video series premiere and the Recharge Beyond the Bars Re-Entry Game. The event was co-hosted by Carl Robinson of Black Zebra Charity as well as Leslie Robinson (no relation) of Trance4mation Nation who created Recharge to facilitate former incarcerated people to help them reconnect with their family, friends, and community.



[Among those awarded was our own Henry Ortiz](#) for his tireless effort in serving the Sacramento community. Our AOUON tabling included our newspapers, All of us or None material, ABC fliers, and general information about our organization. 2021 Elder Freeman Policy Fellow Jeronimo Aguilar: "We were very well received and did some great outreach to the community. It was a successful event and I had a great experience meeting other movement builders while making connections for future organizing."



Want to get involved with AOUON Sacramento? Contact Henry 24/7 at: [henry@prisonerswithchildren.org](mailto:henry@prisonerswithchildren.org) / 209.762.0850.

### **AOUON Oakland**

#### *The Celebration:*

For Juneteenth in Oakland, CA, the AOUON National office set up a table at Eastshore Park at Lake Merritt to engage and celebrate with the thousands who came together on this historic day.

2021 Elder Freeman Policy Fellow Shani Shay arrived very early to stake out a spot so AOUON Senior Organizer Willard "Ali" Birts, Jr. and AOUON National Organizer Oscar Flores could roll up with cars of tables, informational and campaign materials, food, canopy shade, and the always-popular AOUON swag. We were able to share with many about why Juneteenth remains complex for people directly impacted by the criminal legal system, as its claim to celebrate the knowledge of the emancipation of enslaved people also highlights the continued use of slavery & involuntary servitude in prisons and jails.



*AOUON members tabling at the Juneteenth celebration at Lake Merritt, Oakland.*

Many AOUON members came by to spend time talk with our community and then, after a lively and engaging afternoon, the team packed up around 5 P.M., though many stayed around to hang out. About an hour later, shots rang out three blocks away. The crowd scattered and AOUON members checked in with each other to make sure everyone was ok. Later we learned a young man died and several were wounded—a sad ending for one of our first celebrations of community as the pandemic subsides.

### *The Vigil:*

A few days later, AOUON joined Oakland civic and community leaders back at Lake Merritt to hold a vigil for the murdered young man and to renew our commitment to work together to build safe and healthy communities for everyone.



*AOUON members show solidarity at the vigil for the victim of the Lake Merritt shooting on Juneteenth.*

AOUON continues to hit the streets to connect with our community. While the Freedom & Movement Center is based in North Oakland, AOUON members spend time in many Bay Area neighborhoods to raise awareness of the resources we offer as well as empower our formerly incarcerated comrades and family members.

Have a neighborhood you think AOUON should show up in? Contact Ali



## Calendar

### **AOUON – One Community, One Mic**

**When:** Noon every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. Next: July 8, 2021!

**Where:** [bit.ly/OCOM2021](http://bit.ly/OCOM2021)

Message from the Host, Soul Brotha #9:  
*OCOM is so hot this summer! We have a hot take on July 4th vs Juneteenth on July 8th. Then on July 29th, we're closing the show with hot masta pieces by Artivists on the Showcase. Bring a plus one so each one teach one while we enrich One Community One Mic! That's what's up!*



OCOM is a space where our leadership can form a think tank and advocate for our collective and individual services, policy initiatives, coalitions for change, and social outreach. A place where we express our strategies, successes and challenges so each one, teach one. Turn up for your community. Tune in to share the mic and amplify our voices. This is All of Us or None live in action!

OCOM is live every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at noon.  
RSVP here: [bit.ly/OCOM2021](http://bit.ly/OCOM2021)

Past episodes of OCOM 2021 are available [here on the AOUON Facebook video page](#).

### **AOUON – Oakland Meeting – Digital!**

**When:** 6:30 P.M., July 15, 2021

(3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month)

**Where:** Online on Zoom:

<https://bit.ly/AOUONGeneralMeeting>

All people and family members directly impacted by the criminal justice system are invited to join [All of Us or None](#) at our monthly meeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month in Oakland, CA. We discuss local and state legislation, plan community events, and strategize how to advocate for our community in our own voices.



For more information contact Paul B.: [paul@prisonersiwithchildren.org](mailto:paul@prisonersiwithchildren.org) / 415.255.7036



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