



LSPC Newsletter, August 2022

# Building Solidarity Across Generations By Sharing Wisdom, Resources, & Opportunity

## Message from the Executive Director



Dorsey Nunn

While I've been known to deliver a fiery speech or two in my time, a little-known secret is I can't stand the heat. Specifically, the debilitating humidity and head-soaking heat of the Deep South that requires three gallons of iced tea, four showers, and five changes of clothes to make it through the day. I must be a true Bay Area native.

So my recent trip to Miami, Florida, during the last week of July, renewed my appreciation for the fortitude of my predecessors like John Lewis and Fanny Lou Hamer, who toiled tirelessly in the Southern heat of the Civil Rights movement of the 1950's and '60s, as well as for my fellow formerly incarcerated organizers like Desmond Meade, Norris Henderson, and Darryl Atkinson who continue to win significant victories for our voting, civil, human rights in Florida, Louisiana, and North Carolina respectively.

I also recognize that the heat of the South helped forge the [Formerly Incarcerated, Convicted Peoples & Families Movement](#) (FICPFM). Our first meeting, in 2011, was located in Selma, Alabama for specific reasons: not only as "neutral ground" for the West and East Coast organizations to come together with our Southern brothers and sisters, but also to reinforce the direct connection between the fight for the full restoration of our civil and human rights and the Civil Rights Movement of Lewis, Hamer, King, and others. Back in Selma in 2015 for the 50th anniversary of



*FICPFM members march "backwards" over the Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL in 2015.*

*Photo: Mickey Welsh / Montgomery Advertiser*

Bloody Sunday, we marched back over the Pettus Bridge to show that the Movement still has far to go, with the next steps taken by formerly incarcerated people restoring our human and civil rights.

So, putting up with the oppressive heat and humidity was a small price to pay to bask in the warmth of reunion with many of the formerly incarcerated leaders and organizers we've been marching with over the past few decades, and to connect with the youth who are just joining the Movement. I would like to say a special thank you to [Galaxy Gives](#) for making this week of magic possible.

FICPFM is rare magic. So many in the Movement fall into a zero-sum mindset for resources, staff, space on the stage, etc., and people who have been directly impacted by the Prison-Industrial Complex have been traumatized by the divide-and-conquer, dehumanizing systems it employs. The organizations that created FICPFM—all of which are led and predominantly staffed by formerly incarcerated people—could have easily succumbed to squabbles usually seen on the prison yards. Instead, we proved that organizations with the least could not only successfully share resources but both effectively campaign for legislation as well as create a system of support for the younger organizers, too.

LSPC Administrative Director Hamdiya Cooks-Abdullah and I were honored for our collective 80+ years of work for the Movement with being put in the spotlight—first literally with a bouquet presentation, but also as speakers on the panel: "From OG's to Youngbloods: Organizing to Win." Those of us who have been on the March for decades know it's a marathon, not a sprint—indeed, one of the first pieces of advice I give is "set up a retirement plan."



*OG's & Youngbloods, Galaxy Gives, Miami, FL.*



*Left to right: Susan Burton (A New Way of Life), Hamdiya Cooks-Abdullah (LSPC), Marilyn Winn (Women on the Rise), Andrea James (The National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls).*



*Albert Woodfox, seated next to AOUON Co-Founder Linda Evans, speaks of his experience being held in solitary confinement for almost 44*

The importance of sharing our experience and wisdom before the opportunity passes was driven home to me Thursday, when I heard that comrade Albert Woodfox left us. Brother Albert was a cherished elder: a Black Panther, one of the "Angola 3," and [one of the longest-held in solitary in U.S. history](#)—almost 44 years. Albert was released in 2016, and one of the first things he did was travel to Oakland, CA to [share his experiences on a panel of](#)

*years at a panel for political prisoners at the 1st FICPFM National Conference in August, 2016, in Oakland, CA.*

*[You can watch Albert's talk here.](#)*

[political prisoners](#) at the 1st FICPFM National Conference, which LSPC organized. Albert's incredible optimism, even after more than 4 decades of solitary / incarceration, inspired

everyone at the conference. Albert closed his talk with:

"I want people to remember me as Testimony to the strength of the human spirit and determination. It would also be nice if I was remembered as being part of the Movement that ended Solitary Confinement."

We remember you, Albert, as that, and so much more. Thank you for sharing your wisdom and strength with us.

Youth—and all advocates for social justice—also need to recognize where we are on March, and what our predecessors have done to create and shape the current narrative. John Lewis made voting rights flesh and blood. At the start of Critical Resistance, Angela Davis, myself, and others took an obscure phrase from a Mike Davis book and brought the "Prison Industrial Complex" into our consciousness. FICPFM made normal that formerly incarcerated-led orgs not only deserve a seat at the table, but we can, and should, set the agenda—our successes in voting rights restoration in North Carolina, Florida, Louisiana, and California, as well as our continued legislative advocacy training and campaigning such as LSPC's Quest for Democracy prove that.



I personally invite you to join us on Monday, August 8, for our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Quest for Democracy Advocacy Day, either in Sacramento or [online here](#). We will rally in the morning, sharing the work so many allied orgs are doing here in California, and then we'll be visiting legislators in person and having Town Halls with them online in the afternoon. #Q4D2022 is an amazing opportunity for people impacted by the legal system and PIC to speak directly to those in power and to advocate for legislation that will immediately benefit our communities.

Thank you for continuing the March towards Justice with us.

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# Policy Update

## Hitting the Home Stretch with Legislation

The month of July is when the California legislature goes on recess and there are no committees or floor sessions. But there is no recess for those of us in the struggle!

Although it was quiet at the Capitol we continued to advocate for our cosponsored legislation and have been in high gear preparing for our 10th annual Quest for Democracy. The good news is almost all the bills we helped introduce this year have survived up to this point. We are gearing up to come back early August when most of our bills will be heard in Senate and Assembly Appropriations committees. The Appropriations committee is where legislation receives a financial analysis and if found to be "too costly" (more than \$150,000) it will get held in suspense ("where bills go to die").



House	House & Bill Number	Bill name	Author	Short Title	What it does
Senate	SB 1008	Corrections: telecommunications	Becker (D)	Keep Families Connected Act	This bill will make phone calls free for incarcerated people.
Senate	SB 1139	Prisons: visitation	Kamlager (D)		This bill will make it possible for 1 member by their side when in the guided steps and tools to afford 1 humane health care process.
Assembly	AB 1720	Care facilities: criminal background checks.	Holden (D)	In home care - Occupational Licensing	This bill make it easier for individual and care facility for requiring 1 remove barriers for applicants to or manage community care facility (CCL) daycare centers.
Senate	SB 1106	Criminal resentencing: institution.	Wiener (D)	The Fresh Start Act	This bill would provide a judge to as a basis for denying a petition 1
Assembly	AB 937	Immigration Enforcement	Carroll (D)	The Vision Act	AB 937, the Working Inequality or Inequality (VISION) Act, would a members who have already been sentenced by local jails and for do
Senate	SB 721	Criminal records: relief	Dunson (D)	Sun-Setting Conditions	This bill will implement a system conviction and arrest records to 1 and services for those living with
Assembly	AB 1816	Reentry and Housing and workforce Development Program	Bryan (D)	Reentry and Housing and workforce Development Program	This bill would create a competitive development grant program to 1a services, and workforce develop formerly incarcerated in state and homelessness or at risk of home This bill would assign a task force incarcerated parents are met. Th financial, educational, medical or
Assembly	AB 2180	The Children of Incarcerated Parents and Caregivers Task Force.	Wicks D	The Children of Incarcerated Parents and Caregivers Task Force.	

Check out the full breakdown of our cosponsored legislation here: [LSPC-AUON Cosponsored Legislation](#)

We currently have two bills going to Senate Appropriations committee:

- **SB 1008 (Becker):** This bill would make telecommunication free for all incarcerated people.
- **SB 1139 (Kamlager):** This bill would make it possible for incarcerated loved ones to have a family member by their side when in hospice and will implement a format of guided steps and tools to afford incarcerated people and their families a humane health care process.

We also have a couple more bills awaiting their fate in Senate Appropriations:

- **AB 1720 (Holden):** This bill would make it easier for individuals with criminal backgrounds to work in the care facility field by requiring the State Department of Social Services to remove barriers for applicants seeking a license or special permit to operate or manage community care facilities, certain residential care facilities, and child daycare centers.
- **AB 1816 (Bryan):** This bill would create a competitive reentry housing & workforce development grant program to fund evidence-based housing, support services, and workforce development programs for people who were formerly incarcerated in state prisons and who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

Lastly, there is a bill **we really need your support in OPPOSING!:**

- **SB 1262 (Bradford):** Makes open to the public, sensitive information concerning background checks from local court indexes. Increases access to background information and puts our communities at higher risk of discrimination based on their conviction history.

This bill is set to go before Assembly Appropriations and we need your support in contacting committee members and urging them to vote "No" on this harmful legislation before it moves any further.

For more information about LSPC Policy Advocacy, please contact LPSC Policy Analyst Jeronimo Aguilar at: [jeronimo@prisonerswithchildren.org](mailto:jeronimo@prisonerswithchildren.org)

**Key legislative dates:**

08/01/2022 - Legislature reconvenes from Summer Recess.

08/08/2022 - 2022 Quest For Democracy

08/12/2022 - Last day for fiscal committees to meet and report bills.

08/30/2022 - Last day for each house to pass bills. Final Recess begins upon adjournment.

09/30/2022 - Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before 9/1 and in the Governor's possession on or after 9/1.

**2022 Quest for Democracy Advocacy Day!**

Our 10th annual Q4D Advocacy Day is August 8!

We organize hundreds of formerly incarcerated advocates, family members, and allies at the Capitol in Sacramento to speak directly to lawmakers about bills that impact our community.

The Q4D Advocacy Day includes training, a rally, entertainment, and dozens of grassroots lobbying teams meeting with California legislators.



**We're excited to expand Q4D online so people can join us in Sacramento and participate from anywhere!**

**[Click here to RSVP for 2022 Q4D Advocacy Day Online!!](#)**



*Group photo of participants at the 2019 Quest for Democracy Advocacy Day, the last one we organized in person before two years of Digital Q4Ds. We're so excited to be back at the Capitol on August 8 this year, and we hope to see you there!*

You'll be able to **watch the livestream of the morning rally**, featuring our policy platform, speakers from participating organizations, legislators, and some quality entertainment.

**In the afternoon, there will be several online Town Halls**, each focused on a specific topic (for example: Visiting Rights, Ban the Box in Housing, Gate Money, etc.) and will feature listening sessions with legislators as well as organizers to help develop talking points and strategies for current and future campaigns.

Throughout the whole event, you can **participate in online chatroom and message organizers and participants** in real time!

**[Click here to RSVP for 2022 Q4D Advocacy Day Online!!](#)**

The Q4D rally begins 10:00 A.M. on the West Steps of the Capitol Building. We hope to see you there! For more info, contact Program Manager Errol Veron at: [errol@prisonerswithchildren.org](mailto:errol@prisonerswithchildren.org).

**Contribute today** to make our Day of Advocacy the best it can be. [Your gift of \\$250 makes it possible](#) for someone to attend in person, get trained, and speak to their legislators.

**CONTRIBUTE TODAY**

*The Q4D bus is leaving for the Capitol—  
are you on it?*

### **Reentry Housing Tour**

Personal experience is at the heart of our Policy Advocacy. In terms of reentry housing, many LSPC staff and AOUON

organizers have various challenges and successes of our own post-release from prison and coming home. So when we campaign for reentry-specific legislation, such as [AB 1816 \(Bryan\)](#), we not only draw upon our own expertise, but we also do extensive research about the current situation.



On July 27, the Policy Team toured several Reentry Housing facilities in the Bay Area, including one run by LSPC Financial Operations Assistant Mei Lia Storelee. 2022 Policy Fellow Tatiana Lewis described the tour of facilities as an inspiring experience:

"One thing I loved from touring different reentry housing was that all of the staff from each location truly cared and it was their passion. I also loved [Arsola's Reentry Housing](#) on 105th in Oakland—the lady Candy who runs it is a minister, she prayed for us before we left, she also gave us diapers, wipes, body wash, etc. I really enjoyed it!

The tour was also important because we are currently co-sponsors of AB 1816 Reentry Housing and Workforce Development. If passed, those who have Reentry Homes will qualify for funding, that way they can invest that funding for better living conditions!"

For more information about supporting AB 1816 and/or reentry housing, contact Tatiana at: [tatiana@prisonerswithchildren.org](mailto:tatiana@prisonerswithchildren.org)

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## Coalition for Family Unity

### Increase Family Visitation Update

CFU continues to advocate for a third day of in-person visits and transportation as per the 2021 May Revised Budget. On July 1st CDCR contracted with TransMetro to start running transportation to all 35 institutions across CA. The first trips should be scheduled for the 2nd or third week of August. We are working with CDCR to answer some of the questions families are having in regards to who qualifies, children age limits, and lodging accommodations for long trips. You can also visit the CDCR website for more information.



### Get on the Bus Virtual Event

Family Unity Coordinator Ivana Gonzales had the privilege of attending a Get On The Bus Virtual event on July 27 in Los Angeles. The Center for Restorative Justice hosted nine families, assisting them in connecting through video calls with their incarcerated loved ones.

"While on their video calls, Liz Rios, Executive Director for CRJW, and myself delivered lunch to the families and their children. Right after the video call ended, we gave out letters from their incarcerated parents, offered pencils and paper so they could write back to their parent right away. We also handed out backpacks to support the kids in school."



For more information about Get on the Bus Virtual events, contact Family Unity Coordinator Ivana Gonzales at: [ivana@prisonerswithchildren.org](mailto:ivana@prisonerswithchildren.org)

### **Participatory Defense Webinar**

CFU hosted a Participatory Defense Informational Webinar on Friday, July 25.

[Click here to watch!](#)

[Participatory Defense](#) is a community organizing model that supports families of incarcerated people to impact the outcomes of court cases and transform the landscape of power in the courtroom. Participatory defense brings a community organizing ethos to the otherwise isolating court experience. Participatory defense meetings are not legal clinics. Based on a movement-building framework, case outcomes are not considered to be the only measuring stick, but also important is whether the process transformed the participant's sense of power and agency.



[Click here](#) to find a Participatory Defense hub near you.

If you'd like to be involved in the Coalition for Family Unity, check out our

website here, or contact FUM Coordinator Ivana Gonzales at [ivana@prisonerswithchildren.org](mailto:ivana@prisonerswithchildren.org)

## All of Us or None

### **AOUON Sacramento – Hip Hop Artists for Social Justice**

AOUON Sacramento Senior Organizer Henry Ortiz participated in a hip-hop and civil rights symposium that combined activism and music to spotlight gun violence. Hosted by Organized Voices, the event provided an opportunity to return to the core elements of hip-hop: community, storytelling and activism.



Check out the full story about the event in [this Sacramento Observer article](#).

### **Community Outreach**

All of Us or None continues to engage our community in Oakland by tabling and distributing information in various Oakland neighborhoods, such as our 2022 Policy Fellows did around Lake Merritt last week (right). In addition to info material on our Abolish Bondage Collectively campaign and our recent victories passing Ban the Box / Fair Chance Housing ordinances in Berkeley and Oakland, we also invite people to join us at our monthly AOUON General Meeting.



On Saturday, AOUON Outreach Coordinator John Cannon attended the Block Party in West Oakland on Brockhurst and Market Street. The event was thrown in front of the West Oakland Youth Center. It was a time for the community to come and enjoy the day and get free clothes, food, resources and information. We tabled and welcomed some new members as well.



## **AOUON Family Day with the Quakes!**

Last Saturday evening, AOUON got together with about 35 members and children and took 2 buses to San Jose to enjoy a San Jose Earthquakes soccer game. We were provided with free tickets as well as free food and drink vouchers by the Quakes staff. "Everybody had a really good time," said AOUON Outreach Coordinator John Cannon, "even though the game ended in a tie."



Want to join in our community outreach? Contact AOUON Outreach Coordinator John Cannon at: [john@prisonerswithchildren.org](mailto:john@prisonerswithchildren.org) / 415.625.7045

## **AOUON Inside**

Have a family member inside?

Let them know they can contact us for any self-help legal information, sign up to receive the All of Us or None monthly newspaper, or become an AOUON Inside Member by contacting AOUON Outreach Coordinator John Cannon at [john@prisonerswithchildren.org](mailto:john@prisonerswithchildren.org)

Or write to:

AOUON Inside Membership  
4400 Market Street  
Oakland, CA 94608

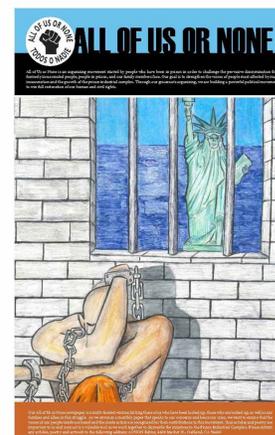


## **National Newspaper!**

The AOUON Newspaper is a print publication sent to our members who are currently incarcerated. [Digital versions of all the issues are available on our website here!](#)

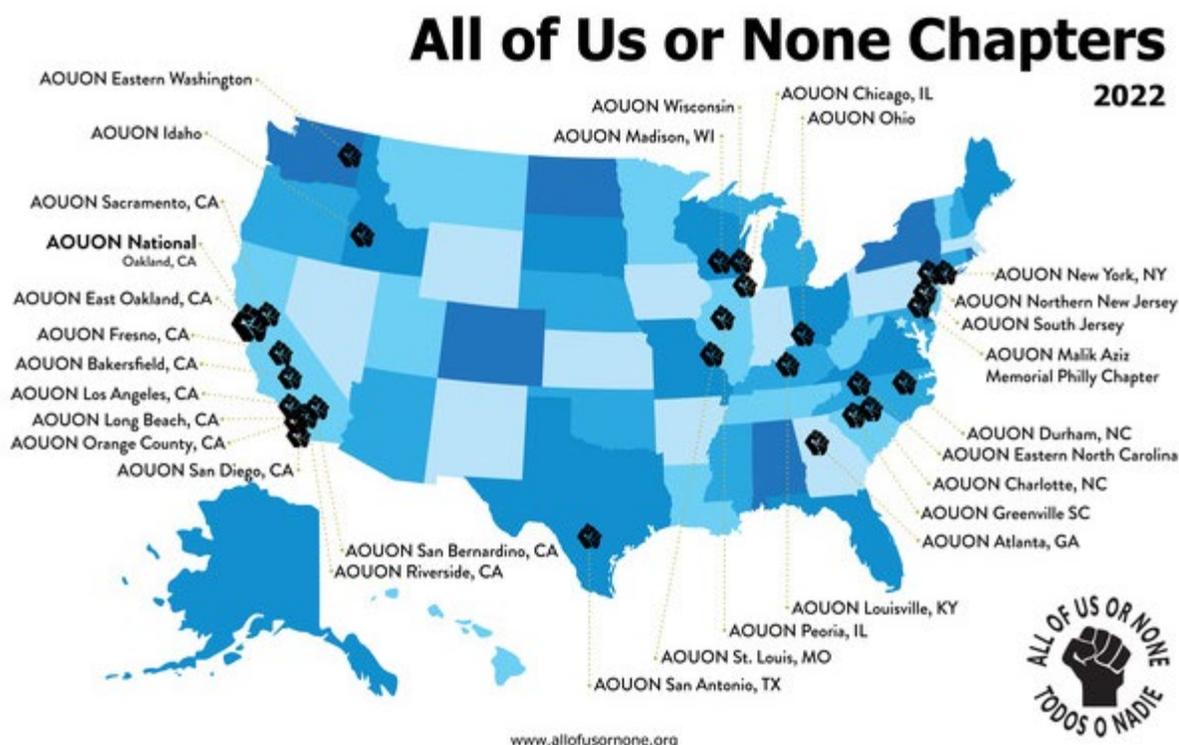
The AOUON Newspaper, which comes out monthly, is a platform to amplify the voices and stories of our members.

If you're interested in sharing a personal story—be it of triumph or hardship—please get in touch with LSPC Communications manager Troy Williams at [troy@prisonerswithchildren.org](mailto:troy@prisonerswithchildren.org)



## AOUON National

Want to get involved in other communities across the country? [Contact one of the many AOUON chapters:](#)



Don't see an AOUON chapter near you? Contact AOUON National Organizer [Oscar Flores](#) to start one: [oscar@prisonerswithchildren.org](mailto:oscar@prisonerswithchildren.org) / 415.625.7048

## We're Hiring!

### Managing Director

We are seeking to hire a Managing Director in our Oakland, CA office. The position is full-time, regular and exempt. The Managing Director will report directly to the Executive Director. We will be hiring as soon as we have

identified the right candidate.

[Full job description and requirements here](#)

## Development Director

We are seeking an experienced development director who brings an understanding for our work and a passion for social justice to our team of 27 staff members. Join us!

[Full job description and requirements here](#)

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## Calendar

### AOUON – Oakland Meeting – Virtual!

**When:** 6:30 P.M., August 18, 2022 (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.:  
[paulb@prisonerswithchildren.org](mailto:paulb@prisonerswithchildren.org) / 415.255.7036

### FICPFM 2022 National Convening

**When:** October 6-9, 2022

**Where:** Atlanta, Georgia

[Save the Date for our National Convening](#), celebrating 10-years of the Formerly Incarcerated, Convicted People's & Families Movement (FICPFM) and the kick off of our Free the VOTE campaign across the country! Registration information will be sent out very soon. You don't want to miss this one.



*LSPC / All of Us or None is a proud founding member and current steering committee member of FICPFM. We organized the inaugural 2016 FICPFM National Convening in Oakland and continue to work with the other*

formerly incarcerated-led orgs to uplift our communities and fight for the full restoration of our rights across the country.

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