

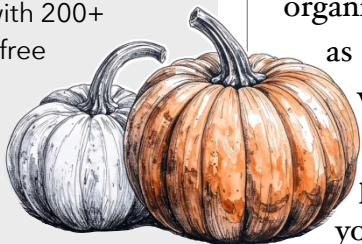
# OREGON VOICES NEWS

## Oregon's New Corrections Ombuds Meets With Eugene's CURE Group

Kristina Rice, Oregon's new Office of Corrections Ombuds, met recently with Eugene's CURE Group and reported that she wants to make sure every AIC in the Oregon DOC has a paper copy of the form needed to contact her with a concern. The Information Form and Consent to Release of Confidential Information can be found online at [www.oregondocombuds.ascendantappforms.com](http://www.oregondocombuds.ascendantappforms.com), requested by email at [doc.ombuds@oregon.gov](mailto:doc.ombuds@oregon.gov), or by phone at 833-685-0842. You may also write to the address below:  
Office of Corrections Ombuds  
900 Court Street, Room 254  
Salem, OR 97301

## Portlanders Organize Effort to Help Those in Need Find Free Food

[PDXMealmap.com](http://PDXMealmap.com) offers information about where to find free meals, food pantries and food assistance. The map will connect you with 200+ locations offering free food with no ID required and no questions asked!



## Our Message

Oregon Voices is committed to justice and rationality in policies regarding sex offenses and will continue to work toward supporting legislation that positively impacts the lives of registered citizens and their families. We continue to support the efforts of other organizations also striving to make lives better for AICs and those reentering our communities.

The holiday season is here! Celebrations are quite festive, yet we know this can also be a very stressful and emotional time. Some of you may be facing homelessness and will soon be challenged by colder weather. Often RCs are automatically shut out from being eligible for shelter and food. Don't give up. Even though many of your privileges have been taken away, this should not prevent you from seeking support that is available within your communities. Another challenge is the recent termination of many federal grants to local programs serving those in need in states such as Oregon. Dig deep. Just remember that others have stepped up to help. Reach out to churches, non-profits and others who can give you advice during these uncertain times. Most of all, be kind to yourself. This newsletter contains articles about national organizations committed to helping those on the registry as well as support systems within Oregon's own communities. You will also learn about the latest work of OV and ongoing legislative work in other states. And if you are an RC who is planning to travel, make sure that before you leave home, you check out the article about the registration requirements of each state you plan to visit.

## Former AIC Helps Prisoners Find Purpose and Hope Through Basketball

The Oregonian recently published an article about Brett Hollins, a former AIC who served nearly six years in prison after pleading guilty to stabbing two men in Ashland Oregon. Hollins decided to return to play college basketball at SOU, and has also developed basketball workshops for adults in custody through his new nonprofit, **The Side Door Foundation**. He has presented workshops and played basketball with inmates at six DOC prisons across Oregon. Although not an RC, Brett Hollins is an example of the importance of individuals and/or groups who go inside prison walls to share their lived experiences and inspire others. Read the full story at [www.opb.org/article/2025/09/26/from-oregon-prison-to-college-basketball-captain-brett-hollins-helps-prisoners-find-purpose-and-hope/](http://www.opb.org/article/2025/09/26/from-oregon-prison-to-college-basketball-captain-brett-hollins-helps-prisoners-find-purpose-and-hope/)



## Oregon Voices Appreciates and Encourages Your Involvement through Volunteering

OV holds quarterly general meetings. While we do spend some time sharing information about each other and providing group support, our focus is to share up-to-date information about legislation that affects RCs and to explain the publications we have written on topics such as relief from the registry. OV works diligently to provide other useful information about vital resources like housing and employment resources, as well as how to go about expunging some criminal offenses, and has a well-maintained **website** where RCs can also search for information.

OV understands that RCs may need more personal support than what we have to offer. We are very fortunate that Oregon has several CURE support groups as well as a strong Fearless group, where you can get support on a monthly basis. We encourage you to join one of them if you haven't already.

Our mission is strong, and we will continue to provide information about our work supporting legislation that will better your lives, and fight to prevent legislation that will have a negative impact. Board members can't do this work alone. We need the support of RCs, their family members, and friends.

Individuals reentering their communities often choose not to participate because they fear that people will discover that they are on the registry. OV can assure you that we honor your need to remain anonymous and will always protect your identity; therefore, we do hope that you will share your talents and time. Here are some of the ways that you can give much needed support:

- >Provide info about housing and employment resources in your area.
- >Write articles for the website and/or for the newsletter.
- >Contribute artwork, graphics, or photos for publications such as the newsletter.

## ACLU Challenges Michigan's Sex Offender Registration Act

An interesting article at the link below explains how the ACLU challenged Michigan's Sex Offender Registration Act (SORA) as being illegal. The litigation is long and detailed and is now sitting in the court of appeals. It is worth reading since some of Michigan's registry requirements are the same as those here in Oregon.

<https://www.aclumich.org/en/what-you-need-know-about-does-iii>

## Missouri Eases Restrictions Placed on Registrants During Halloween

There has been some progress in restoring the privacy and rights of registered citizens in Missouri during Halloween since they no longer are required to display a sign on their doors stating, "No candy or treats at this residence." Having to fulfill this requirement clearly identified where they lived, creating undue stress about their personal safety.



*Continued from Page 2*

- >Research various aspects of sex offenses and society's response to these offenses in order to discover evidence-based practices that promote public safety.
- >Assist in organizing meetings by suggesting guest speakers and/or topics.
- >Join the team that tracks bills during legislative sessions.

Most of all, you can bring new ideas to help OV make the lives of registered citizens better. Please contact Oregon Voices if you have any questions or if you can volunteer your services by calling 971-317-6868 or emailing us at: [info@oregonvoices.org](mailto:info@oregonvoices.org)

## Fearless - Connect and Make New Friends!

Hello everyone, my name is David. I am a member of the Oregon Voices Board, and I started Fearless Oregon four years ago. For those who may not be familiar with Fearless groups, they are composed of people like me who have a sex offense conviction, along with family, friends, and supporters.

Fearless is a place for those of us who have been and continue to be marginalized and ostracized by society to come together to share stories of hope and empowerment. It is a safe place to share our stories, educate each other, learn about advocacy and civil rights, and succeed despite the restraints placed on us. In addition, we provide resources such as, but not limited to, therapy. Most of all, it is a place to connect and make new friends.

Our meetings are held on the last Tuesday of every month for 90 minutes. They are scheduled from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm PST, and all meetings are via Zoom. You must be eighteen years old or older to join us. If you are on probation or parole, you must have permission to attend. We will not be held responsible for any probation or parole violations. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Oregon Voices (971-317-6868) for further information. We look forward to meeting you!

## The National Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws

The National Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws (NARSOL) is a not-for-profit organization made up of volunteers who work together to bring change to the oppressive sexual offense laws in the United States. NARSOL helps registrants and family members navigate the challenges they encounter every day while on the registry. Their website at [www.NARSOL.org](http://www.NARSOL.org) provides information about state and territory laws so you can keep up to date regarding any changes. It is important to note that they support evidence-based public policies as well as safe, reintegration of AICs returning to their communities. Affiliates also contribute information about what is happening in their respective states so it is a good way to get be informed. This national 501(c)3 organization is one you should get to know if you haven't already visited their site.

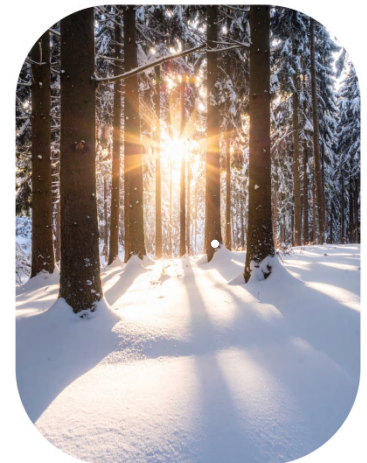
## OVBoard Member Attends the NARSOL Conference in Atlanta, Georgia

OV is fortunate to have had one of its board members attend the NARSOL (NARSOL.org) Conference held in Atlanta GA in October. There were over 25 states represented at the conference. The Western states had a strong presence, including but not limited to Oregon. This conference was well attended, with close to one hundred people.

## Legislative Advisory Group Study

In the wake of the 2025 legislative session, the Parole Board formed an advisory group to consider changes to Oregon law in dealing with the registry. The group brought together various constituencies that deal with the registry and persons on the registry. We are fortunate to have two OV board members participating in this group. While the work group has held some meetings, participants have just learned that it will not meet again next April. The reason given is that there have been changes in the planning for the 2026 short session and that as a result there isn't room on the legislative agenda for a registry bill. We are being told that when the group reconvenes, it will continue to develop some recommendations for the 2027 session.

This, of course, is discouraging, but it gives OV some more time to discuss strategies on the board and to marshal all of the OV resources we can well ahead of time with carefully crafted messaging for that session on whatever changes might come out. Our OV representatives continue to have some guarded hope about some initial steps being taken--like merely doing a background check on registrants who have been on the registry for 20 years or more and making their removal automatic if there are no more sex crimes. We hope that the process will lead to legislative changes that will recognize the responsible lives that so many of you are building, even in the face of huge barriers. We will provide updates on the process in future meetings and newsletters.



*Continued from Page 4*

Multiple speakers presented over four days. An Illinois attorney spoke vibrantly about efforts to change or end draconian laws affecting all of us, while remaining hopeful, yet realistic about this uphill battle. Other speakers provided information and support for families; one speaker spoke of jettisoning the shame that is felt, while another provided domestic and international travel tips for RCs.

The OV representative reports that this was his fifth conference and the best one he has attended. Notably, everyone appeared to enjoy themselves, and the NARSOL Board of Directors was available to anyone in attendance who wanted to provide suggestions. The next conference will be held in Baltimore, MD in June 2026. Visit their website often to keep up with important information!

**Important Holiday Project!**

OV volunteers recently sent a special holiday greeting to AICs. If you are reading this newsletter and are not on OV's mailing list but would like to be, write to OV, PO Box 13171, Salem, OR 97309. We also extend special wishes for a peaceful holiday to all of you who receive this newsletter!



**Monitoring Oregon's Sex Offender Population**

During legislative sessions, media queries and interviews often surface about how Oregon monitors its sex offender population. Beginning in late August, KATU presented a three-part investigative series about the issue. KATU initially approached Oregon Voices for an interview and OV representatives worked carefully with KATU reporters to ensure that information would be presented as accurately and fairly as possible given the limited information OV was able to provide for the investigative series. To learn more, please visit the podcasts online at **KATU**, searching for the following titles:

Part I: Oregon's sex offender database limits information. Is it too much or not enough?  
 Mon, August 25, 2025, at 12:48 PM, Updated Mon, September 8, 2025, at 1:44 PM

Part II: Sex offender supervision in Oregon: How does it work?  
 Mon, September 1, 2025, at 3:35 PM, Updated Mon, September 8, 2025, at 3:37 PM

Part III  
 Can sex offenders change? Experts in Oregon say state falls short on treatment  
 Mon, September 8, 2025, at 1:35 PM, Updated Mon, September 8, 2025 at 10:54 PM

**Know the Rules for Sending Letters to AICs**

If you are planning to send mail to an AIC, be sure to check the DOC mail rule revisions made in January 2025. The only items adults in custody may receive directly from friends or family are photos and letters. Books, magazines, and newspapers must be sent to the AIC directly from a publisher/distributor. Detailed directions for sending letters can be found on the DOC website at **<https://www.oregon.gov/doc/contact-inmate/Pages/letters.aspx>**

## **Traveling In and Beyond the United States And Other Related Information**

This is the time of year when RCs are thinking of traveling to be with family members or to attend special celebrations around. Some have very clear instructions from probation officers about what they can or cannot do. Others, such as those who are off paper, may think that they can travel freely. Oregon Voices has always encouraged individuals to "know before they go" meaning that they need to find out registration requirements of each state that they plan to visit because they are very different from one another. Find out how long you can be in the state you are planning to visit so that you don't suddenly find yourself listed on yet another registry.

### **SORNA and How It Relates to Travel Restrictions**

During the past month, a few RCs have contacted Oregon Voices wanting to know what SORNA meant since it was listed as an agenda item for one of our General OV meetings. Their queries serve as a reminder that we cannot assume registrants know about all of the laws that affect their lives. SORNA is an acronym for the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act: **Title I of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-248)**, and serves as a set of **federal standards** for sex offender registration and notification in the United States. These standards also include updating personal information regularly and maintaining compliance to avoid criminal penalties.

Over the years, Oregon Voices has attempted to define some of the implications of these rules and regulations which are difficult to interpret at best. SORNA is very comprehensive, including an amendment (International Megan's Law) that sets **travel restrictions**. More about this Act can be found on the website SMART: The Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking for a comprehensive guide to understanding federal laws, at **<https://smart.ojp.gov/sorna/current-law>**



OV has held meetings in the past to explain marked passports and real IDs since RCs are faced with international travel restrictions. The most reliable source of information about international travel can be found at: **<https://all4consolaws.org/2025/01/international-travel-2025/>**

This website is updated constantly and is also a place where people can share their travel experiences as well as ask questions.

---

### **Last, But Not Least**

OV is very careful to guard the privacy of those who join the listserv and actively participate. We appreciate the ideas, information and support you provide to the board as we continue to work together to improve the lives of registered citizens.

**Thank you!**