

Advocates For Change



# THE ADVOCATE

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Message from the Chair..... 1  
 AFC is on Social Media..... 2  
 Support Group..... 2  
 Pat Martin..... 2  
 Parole Board Meeting..... 2  
 Great Questions..... 2  
 Why Didn't the Parole Board Consider... 4  
 Differentiating Client Risk..... 4  
 The Support Person..... 5  
 Sex Offenders Locked Up On a Hunch... 6  
 Pat Martin Tribute..... 7  
 What is AFC Doing?..... 7

## AFC MISSION STATEMENT

AFC supports those with a sex offense and their families by:

- Advocating for change in sex offense laws and policies, and for the adherence to constitutional rights;
- Educating the public, lawmakers, and the judiciary;
- Promoting the successful treatment and reintegration of those with an offense into the community, thus reducing victimization and enhancing the safety of all.

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## **A MESSAGE FROM THE AFC CHAIR**

Hello to all. We know that time drags for those of you who are incarcerated but we're thinking about you and working for you.

We've made progress this year in getting the attention of the legislature and there are possibilities for laws that might help change the direction of the judicial system. We're working to bring as much information and research to legislators as we can, to bring them up to date on where the studies are pointing.

One situation in the public view today is the Judge Kavanaugh confirmation hearings. We know there are strong feelings on both sides of this issue. AFC would just like to see fair and equitable treatment of the individuals involved. Both Dr. Ford and Judge Kavanaugh gave credible testimony. It's hard to know where the truth really lies. With the case now decided, AFC did not want to see either party destroyed by the process but it's too late for that. The process seems more problematic than what the people appearing before the judiciary had to say.

AFC is concerned how a threat, the simple accusation or just a suggestion of sexual wrongdoing can be used in child custody cases or in troubled relationships. Politicians use stories of sexual assaults in their campaigns to show they are strong against crime. It's just too simple to accuse and harm. Teenagers, men and boys (and a few women) are being accused on a daily basis and it will continue, often unchallenged until the public begins to understand how these accusations are destroying our society. With advocacy groups such as AFC around the nation the entire system has the potential of finding a way back to sanity.

However, AFC does want to see every assault victim come forward to tell their story so they can be heard. There are people who are terribly hurt by sexual assault and accountability is needed for those transgressions against them. Every person harmed deserves to heal and be able to move on in life and not be a victim for the rest of their lives. All lives matter, both victim and offender. Individuals can help change the narrative by educating themselves on sex offense issues and not buying into the hysteria and propaganda that is currently terrorizing the public and keeping things status quo. With the current exposure of what is happening, hopefully, the public will become more aware of the inequities in the current system.

*Pat Harris, Chair, Advocates for Change*

AFC is all volunteer; no one receives a salary. In fact, our core Breakfast Action Group (BAG) members cover many of our expenses out of pocket; expenses which keep growing. We at AFC appreciate your support and renewing your memberships or donating on a timely basis. New members are always welcome.

## **“Sex Offender” versus “Person Convicted of a Sexual Offense:**

Let’s be clear: AFC does not condone, in any way, the use of the expression “sex offender.” We feel it puts the behavior before the individual. AFC is advocating for the term “person convicted of a sex offense” in all situations.

Having said that, there are situations in this newsletter (and other places) where the term sex offender is used such as in the title of an article or in the name of an agency such as the Sex Offender Management Board. AFC uses this term, reluctantly, because that is how it was used in the article and/or title.

## **AFC is on Social Media (and has been for some time)**

The sheer volume of articles and information we receive from news sources and our affiliates throughout the country (and the world) would compel us to publish a newsletter weekly – had we the budget. We invite you instead to join us on Facebook or our Googlegroup where we publish as much as we can. For Facebook, simply search for Advocates Change and look for our logo of the balanced scale. You can friend us there so that our posts become part of your newsfeed as well or go to our Advocates4Change page (which you cannot join or friend) and read our postings.

For those of you who cannot or choose not to use Facebook, AFC created a Googlegroup which contains the identical articles/postings found on Facebook. To join simply send an email to [advocates4changeafc@gmail.com](mailto:advocates4changeafc@gmail.com) asking to join the group. You will then (based on your choice) receive an email from the group each time we make a post or a “daily digest” containing all the postings for the previous 24 hours or a link to read the postings. We do not post everyday; only as articles come our way and we have the time. Sometimes there may only be a single posting for the day or multiple.

Stay informed. Join our social media program.

## **Support Group**

AFC is searching for volunteers to help establish a support group for family members, friends or anyone who is involved with a person convicted of a sexual offense. Like any other support group, this one will be about bringing together those who want to be around like-minded or similarly situated people who are being forced, by circumstance, to deal with the issues surrounding these offenses.

There will be no agenda or moderator. We are merely searching for volunteers to pick up this ball and run with it: scheduling, hosting meetings, finding acceptable locations, etc. Perhaps it could be done on a rotating

basis with different people hosting at their homes, etc. AFC will assist in getting the word out about upcoming meetings with times and locations by posting on our Facebook page and googlegroup. Of course those who have the time and the inclination to do more than just commiserate with each other are welcome to join our regular AFC Breakfast Action Group.

## **Pat Martin**

AFC is sad to announce the passing of board member and friend, Patricia Martin. Her strong voice, keen mind and determination were essential to the function of AFC for a long time. Her deep heart and deep conviction in our mission touched the lives of many who probably never knew her name but were affected positively by her work. Those of us who knew her personally will never forget the strong, positive impact she had on us.

Pat had been struggling with a serious personal illness for over a year, yet still had the spirit and determination to continue the work of AFC and our overall mission of fair and equitable treatment for those convicted of a sexual offense. Her legacy to all of us is her example of dedication and strength, in spite of adversity, to continue working until our goals are accomplished. She will be sorely missed.

There are not adequate words to express to her family how sorry we are for their and our loss. We can at least say the world was a better place because she was in it and we are better people for having known her. Goodbye Pat. Sleep well. You have earned it.

## **Parole Board Meeting**

AFC hosted the Parole Board at the August 28, 2018 General Meeting. The board has changed in the last several months and the newest member was introduced. Kristen Hilkey is the new member and the new chair of the board. The other members present were Alexandra Walker (the co chair), Denise Balazic, and Joe Morales. The meeting was extremely well attended with the board being very open to the questions asked. Prepared questions were asked of the board and as the meeting progressed more and more questions were asked by the members. Eventually the meeting was called to an end with questions left to be answered. The board is becoming more and more aware of the problems faced by so many in receiving the required DoC treatment and are looking at other alternatives. It’s so important to know that a well-prepared parole plan is essential. An optimistic look toward the future as to how you might accomplish your goals and a plan for housing and work. Housing is probably the most difficult because the parole board seems unwilling to parole someone homeless because they see this as instability and a way to come right back to DoC.

## Great Questions

*Below is an exchange between AFC and someone who discovered our newsletter (and email address) and decided to communicate with us. We at AFC decided to use the experience as a teaching opportunity. We provide it here without the person's name, to protect their anonymity (we will just call them "a person") as an example of how one might answer questions commonly asked about this issue:*

On Tue, Aug 21, 2018, 15:32 A PERSON wrote:

In reading your July 2018 newsletter, my one question is this- what is it that your group wants Colorado to do with convicted sex offenders?

What repercussions/consequences would you implement? Or would you?

I am asking simple questions here. As I see it, you are very dissatisfied with the way Colorado does things and "treats" offenders, so what is it you propose as far as sentences, or restrictions, treatment, or overall laws?

On Tue, Aug 21, 2018 at 3:57 PM, Advocates4changeafc <[advocates4changeafc@gmail.com](mailto:advocates4changeafc@gmail.com)> wrote:

Great question if you've got a few hours. Research shows persons convicted of a sex offense have a lower recidivism rate than ANY other type of offender, yet are still pariahs in the community because of draconian restrictions. These restrictions are not helping keep recidivism low and they make reintegration into society extraordinarily hard. All we ask is the same type of treatment as any other ex-offender. It is hard enough to reintegrate as an ex-offender and it should be. We are asking for parity and treatment programs that are effective based on RESEARCH not long-held bias and fear.

On Wed, Aug 22, 2018 at 2:55 PM, A PERSON wrote:

The only thing I can get behind is the variance in sentencing for offenders. I've seen offenders who are charged & found guilty of sexually abusing numerous children (hands on offenses) only sentenced to 4 years probation while another who, granted it is also illegal and wrong, was sentenced to over 10 years- life in DOC for sexually assaulting a teenager.

I'd like to know, while I don't know much about the people who run your organization, have any of you been a victim yourself of any kind of sexual assault, or a family member perhaps? Do you closely work with any victims, or their families? How close are you to the offenders themselves, do the offenders talk with you about their offenses in detail as they do in treatment or during other testing w/in treatment?

I do not think that anyone can give a fair representation of the treatment of SO's or the harsh consequences for them unless they have been involved in all aspects of the sex offender realm i.e. a therapist, or an evaluator, or

perhaps a victim advocate or defense attorney or D.A..... all realms. Or how about throwing in being a victim yourself or knowing a person close to you who was?

Where is your position in all of the above? Have you been in any of those shoes, have any of the people who are a part of your organization?

On Wed, Aug 22, 2018 at 3:30 PM, Advocates4changeafc <[advocates4changeafc@gmail.com](mailto:advocates4changeafc@gmail.com)> wrote:

Great questions. Settle in for some thorough answers. Let's begin with some facts:

Being the victim of ANY offense is a terrible experience and each individual determines the extent of the damage inflicted by the offense. To some, finding out you were lied to by your best friend can be just as or more devastating than a physical assault. We all perceive wrongs in different ways.

Parity of sentencing arguments are as old as the law itself. In the 80's, mandatory minimums were argued for drug offenders because of the disparity in sentencing. Some were caught with a miniscule amount and sentenced to many years in prison while others with much larger quantities barely saw jail. That part of the system is truly broken and there are reams of discussions on both sides of the issue.

100% of persons convicted of a sex offense will return to their communities one day. 97% of all offenders, no matter their crime will eventually return to society. How you perceive them and treat them while they are incarcerated or otherwise being punished will determine what sort of neighbors they will eventually become.

Of course we have members who have been the victims of sexual assault as well as other types of crimes. More than that, we have offenders who were once victims of sexual assault themselves. What category should we put them in? We did not come into this thorny, emotional issue without taking a long hard look at the system and ourselves to determine what needs to be done and whether or not we were ready to face it. We exposed ourselves to thousands of interviews (both in the media and individually) with victims of sexual assault and spend much of our energy talking to and educating ourselves with D.A.'s, therapists, researchers and literally anyone else remotely involved who will talk to us on the subject. Many of our members are the family of offenders who force themselves to hear the details of their loved ones behavior and hold that loved one accountable in attending treatment, facing their punishment as adults and acceding to all the restrictions/conditions placed on the offender. They in turn give us feedback in detail on what goes on in the treatment environment, what the restrictions are doing not only to the lives of their offender loved ones but to themselves and so on. We attend regularly meetings of the Colorado Sex Offender Management Board to hear what work is being done in that area as well as victim advocacy groups, law enforcement groups and many more. We immerse ourselves in the data, ugly as it is, to become INFORMED

advocates. We are affiliated with advocacy groups of all types around the country that deal with offender issues as well as victims rights groups and we support them all with equal alacrity.

We do not advocate the downplaying of the victim's role in the judicial process. They have earned the right to play a role by virtue of their experience. We submit, however, that the victim should not be given the final say in how the offender should be punished. This is not the middle east where the murderer of a family member must submit to that family for punishment. We argue that the victim, or their families, do not have the knowledge or training to decide how best to punish/treat the offender. Just because someone has eaten a cherry pie does not necessarily mean they know how to cook one.

As stated above, 100% of all persons convicted of a sex offense (those that did not involve murder as well) will return to your community eventually as will 97% of offenders of any type of crime. I ask you to remember a time in your life (we have all done it) when you harmed another person by word or deed and were ostracized by that person (and perhaps their friends and family) as a result. How did you feel? I imagine hurt and scared at first but eventually you developed a callousness about the event and perhaps an animosity toward that person for not forgiving you. Now multiply that by several million and you will begin to appreciate how a person convicted of a sex offense feels. He/she has a whole society not ready to forgive them after he/she has served their punishment and, more than that, doesn't bother to determine the specifics of the offense but lumps them in with those most horrific crimes they saw on TV. Do you want to see this person become callous and uncaring (because he/she feels no one cares about them so why bother) about you? What kind of neighbor would they make? How will you treat ANY offender (thief, drug offender, murderer) who moved into your neighborhood? How you treat them will go a long way in determining how they treat you. Before you answer, ask yourself what if one of these offenders was a loved one, family member or friend? It's always complicated isn't it? I can't say I've covered everything to your satisfaction but we are always here to discuss further anything you wish. I would like to thank you for taking the time out of your day to consider this issue and communicate with us. Thank you and have a good day.

*Editor's Note: While we never heard from this individual after this exchange nor did we feel compelled to contact them unsolicited, we fervently hope our answers were useful to them and gave them a new perspective. Perhaps our readers could offer us a critique on how well we did or how we could have done it better. AFC, like any other organization or person, sees it in its own best interest to continually better itself and this can only be done with feedback from those we come in contact with*

## Why Didn't the Parole Board Consider...?

AFC gets comments/feedback all the time from both members and non-members asking the very same question: "why didn't the parole board take into consideration this or that (medications, classes, etc.)?" The answer is quite simple: THEY PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT!

Don't EVER assume that the parole board has been given all the information they need. Take an active role in making sure they do. YOU TOO can submit information for the parole board to consider; not just letters of support. Contact the offender's case manager and send him/her all relevant documents (medical files, etc.) so he/she can upload it to the system the parole board looks at. It makes a difference. BE ACTIVE and proactive.

## Differentiating Client Risk

On August 17, 2018 the Board approved additional language to Standard 3.170, thereby establishing recommended best practices regarding differentiating client risk in treatment. The additional language is as follows:

3.170 (C) Differentiating client risk is a critical part of the therapeutic process in order to limit the degree to which low risk clients are exposed to high risk clients, because such exposure may increase a low risk client's risk to sexually re-offend[1]. Treatment providers should not routinely assign clients to groups comprised of individuals presenting markedly dissimilar levels of risk. If circumstances necessitate facilitating groups with dissimilar levels of risk, the treatment provider shall implement strategies to monitor for potential harm, adverse dynamics, and undue influence on low risk clients. The treatment provider shall establish a rationale for the group composition when low risk clients are mixed with high risk clients and should explore opportunities to separate these populations. As a general rule, low risk clients should be identified and excluded from high risk clients in offense-specific treatment groups. Risk score shall be determined by the combined score derived from the static and dynamic risk assessment. Where a risk-level appropriate group is not available to a client, treatment providers should use alternative modalities such as individual therapy.

*Discussion: While some clients may remain in the same level throughout treatment, there is also the ability to move clients to a different level of treatment as clinically indicated. This process should be carefully facilitated based on new information such as changes in risk factors, mitigation of risk factors, or other emerging clinical issues. Providers may use their discretion for determining when and how clients should transition to a different group, if applicable and appropriate. When*

limited resources prevent the provider from establishing a low-risk treatment group, it is important to implement strategies and interventions that are based on client risk levels such as the use of individual sessions. Clients in all levels of treatment may be together for psycho-educational, non-therapeutic groups or classes.

*Editor's Note: The above is an example of the SUBSTANTIAL changes being made to the Colorado Sex Offender Management Board's Standards and Guidelines, the "bible" in the treatment and monitoring of persons convicted of a sexual offense. Some of these changes are being mandated by lawsuits; some by legislative oversight such as the audits and investigations of the Sex Offender Management Board and some of the changes are being driven by updated and recent research in the field of sex offender treatment and management. The ENTIRE manual is being reviewed and rewritten. Some of the changes are hardly perceptible (in the editor's view) while other changes are sweeping and completely change the face of treatment and management. ALL are needed and closely monitored. It is up to ALL OF US to closely watch this development and take an active role in making sure the changes made are adequate and functional. If we sit on the sidelines while this occurs without our input, we abdicate the right to complain when the guidelines are implemented.*

## The Support Person

*Editor's Note: In our last issue, we discussed what an offender, seeking a support person should expect and provide to a potential support person. We felt, in that regard, a potential support person should have some idea of what will be expected of them should they wish to take on this task. The below article should assist in that regard.*

The following was extracted from CDOC (Colorado Department of Corrections) AR (Administrative Regulation) 700-19 dated March 15, 2017 and entitled "Sex Offender Treatment and Monitoring Program". For those uninformed, an AR is what CDOC uses as its bible for prison operations and procedures. There are AR's which cover the gamut of CDOC policies and procedures. This particular AR covers SPECIFICALLY the policies and procedures for the sex offender treatment program. The entire document is available on the CDOC website. It is approximately 10 pages.

This extraction is provided to educate those who are considering the possibility of becoming a designated support person for someone convicted of a sex offense. As you can see, there are some serious considerations to be made before making this decision and CDOC (specifically the staff of the SOTMP) will not hesitate to deny anyone who does not meet ALL the criteria. Read all the way through it. Some of the criteria may surprise

you. This is page 7 (and continuing) section K beginning with 2a:

- a. Accurate knowledge of the offender's crime of conviction, history of prior criminal convictions, sexual offense history, and sexual deviancy behaviors.
  - b. Accurate knowledge of the offender's methods of deception and manipulation, particularly as they apply to the informed supporter.
  - c. Accurate knowledge of rules and expectations as provided by the parole officer and treatment provider.
  - d. Awareness of the offender's potential victims.
  - e. Awareness of the cycle, offense patterns and early abuse signs.
  - f. Familiarity with the offender's schedule and whereabouts.
  - g. The ability to enhance and encourage application of the offender's treatment tools outside of the therapy setting.
  - h. A working relationship with the treatment provider and criminal justice supervisor.
  - i. The ability to acknowledge the seriousness of the offending behavior.
  - j. The ability, skills and tools to hold the offender accountable early in the onset of risky behaviors.
  - k. Willingness to report non-compliance to the supervisory team.
3. The SOTMP Support Education Program is designed to facilitate positive, informed support as described above and:
- a. Help support person(s) identify high risk behaviors and attitudes in the sexual offender and intervene before re-offense.
  - b. Help support person(s) understand and reinforce the sexual offender's participation and progress in treatment.
  - c. Prepare appropriate support person(s) for the sex offense specific therapist facilitated disclosure meeting in which the offenders with a sex offense discloses his/her sexual offense history, sexually deviant behavior, sex offense cycle, risk factors, relapse prevention plan, safety plan and methods of deception

- and manipulation particularly as they apply to each support person.
- d. Prepare and encourage support person(s) to develop a cooperative working relationship with the treatment providers and community supervision team.
4. The following factors will be considered by the SOTMP team when determining whether a potential support person will be approved:
- a. Is not currently under the jurisdiction of any court or criminal justice agency for a matter that the team determines could impact his/her capacity to safely serve as an approved support person;
  - b. Has no prior convictions. If ever accused of interpersonally violent behavior, unlawful sexual behavior or child abuse, presents information requested by the team so that the team may assess current impact on his/her capacity to serve as an approved support person;
  - c. Does not participate in criminal activities;
  - d. Has agreed to undergo a criminal history background check utilizing NCIC/CCIC and other court and criminal justice records;
  - e. Has no significant cognitive or intellectual impairment;
  - f. Has no substance abuse or significant mental health problems;
  - g. Has no significant health limitation that interferes with the ability to support the offender;
  - h. Has adequately resolved any issues regarding personal history of victimization;
  - i. Has no history of the sex offender perpetrating domestic violence or any other form of victimization against him/her;
  - j. Has not perpetrated domestic violence or any other form of victimization against the offender;
  - k. Is not hostile toward systems designed to intervene;
  - l. Is willing to maintain open communication with the treatment providers and parole officers and report offender behavior;
  - m. Is willing to maintain the goal of "no more victims" and community safety;

- n. Does not participate in victim blaming;

Is 21 years old or older.

5. Additional factors that will be considered include, but are not limited to: participation in the support education program, ability to support the offender's change efforts, ability to acknowledge the seriousness of the offending behavior, ability to hold the offender accountable as described in number 2, ability to support the treatment and supervision rules and requirements, and positive participation in the therapist facilitated disclosure meeting to receive and review the offender's risk management plan.

6. An approved support person will not support more than one offender with a sex offense at a time unless approved by the SOTMP administrator

### Sex Offenders Locked Up on a Hunch

*Editor's Note: The article below is provided as yet another example of the multitude of articles published on this issue by leading publications throughout the country. This article is from the New York Times and was posted on our Facebook page on October 16, 2018.*

The essence of the American criminal justice system is reactive, not predictive: You are punished for the crime you committed. You can't be punished simply because you might commit one someday. You certainly can't be held indefinitely to prevent that possibility.

And yet that is exactly what is happening to about 5,000 people convicted of sex crimes around the country. This population, which nearly doubled in the last decade, has completed prison sentences but remains held in what is deceptively called civil commitment — the practice of keeping someone locked up in an institution for months, years or even decades for the purpose of preventing possible future offenses.

The authorities have the power to detain people with mental illnesses or disorders who cannot function independently, or who pose a danger to themselves or others. But since the early 1990s, this power has been used increasingly to imprison one distinct group: sex offenders.

Federal law and the laws in 20 states and the District of Columbia allow people convicted of violent sex crimes — such as rape or child molestation — to be held in custody indefinitely past the end of their criminal sentences. The Supreme Court has upheld these laws on the grounds that they are not intended to punish or deter crime, but only to hold people until they are no longer a threat. In

theory, a civilly committed person gets treatment and is released as soon as possible.

In practice, however, it usually means leaving one prison for another — civil commitment facilities are generally high-security buildings patrolled by armed guards and ringed with barbed wire — from which many are never released.

In a decision in June, a federal judge ruled that Minnesota's civil-commitment law for sex offenders violates the Constitution. Federal District Judge Donovan Frank said the law imposes "a punitive system that segregates and indefinitely detains a class of potentially dangerous individuals without the safeguards of the criminal justice system." For example, local prosecutors — not clinicians or mental health professionals — choose whether to seek continued detention based on a screening test that claims to predict a person's likelihood of committing another sex offense, though there is no clear evidence such tests are accurate.

Yet based largely on those screening tests, more than 700 Minnesotans who have completed their prison sentences are locked up, at an annual cost of more than \$120,000 per person — triple the cost of prison. This civil commitment rate is by far the highest in the country. Some people have been held for more than 20 years. During that time, not one person has been released from the program unconditionally.

A central flaw, Judge Frank said, is that Minnesota does not perform reassessments of risk, so the burden lies with the detainees to prove they no longer pose a danger. On Aug. 12, Judge Frank ordered the state to come up with constitutionally valid reforms by the end of September, or he "may demand a more forceful solution."

Despite the public perception that all sex offenders are recidivists — a belief that drove these laws in the first place — sexual re-offense rates are in fact lower than those for other crimes (though an unknown number of sex crimes go unreported). In addition, while some states' laws make it easier for detainees to earn their way out, 30 states have no civil-commitment laws at all, and there is no evidence that a state's sexual-violence rate is affected by whether it has such a law.

As with California's three-strikes law or harsh mandatory-minimum sentences nationwide, the indefinite detention of sex offenders reflects the politics of fear and overreaction that drive so much of criminal justice policy. That was the case in Minnesota, which drastically increased the number of people it committed after a recently released sex offender sexually assaulted and murdered a college student named Dru Sjodin in 2003.

Public safety would be better served if resources were directed toward community supervision and other services for those leaving prison, rather than toward skirting the edges of the Constitution to keep them locked away.

## Pat Martin Tribute

Written by a fellow board member and admirer

Pat and I argued a lot. I thank her for that. She was a fierce defender of her family, her friends and those she felt had been wronged. I thank her for that. She was smart, articulate and funny. I thank her for that. She listened carefully and asked pointed questions. I thank her for that. She let me tell her things which I knew hurt her deeply but she really needed to understand. I thank her for that. She edited my writing and made it far better than it would have been otherwise. I thank her for that. She talked straight to me and gave me honest and fair advice even if it wasn't what I wanted to hear. I thank her for that. She reminded me that people can disagree about things and still care for one another. I thank her for that. I should have told her more of these things when she was still among us and she is reminding me now not to make that mistake again. I thank her for that. She made me a better person.

I thank her for that.

## What is AFC Doing?

AFC gets asked "What are you doing for the membership?" We have a meeting from 7 am to 9 am the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday to discuss our goals, objectives and accomplishments. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday we have our meeting from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm to accommodate those folks who are working during the day. We reserve a room at Perkins Restaurant on Buchtel and Colorado Blvd. for these meetings at no cost to AFC. Our volunteers buy their own meals out of pocket. Everyone is welcome to attend. The 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month we have our evening meeting with a guest speaker at The Rocky Mountain Miracle Center at 1939 S. Monroe St. with a guest speaker. We cover the rental expense for this meeting with our membership dues. Again, everyone is welcome.

In addition to the important tasks of answering letters and phone calls we search for significant articles to share with our membership. The phone is paid for from our membership dues. We publish a newsletter and maintain a Web page, Facebook and Googlegroup to keep our membership informed. Printing costs and mailings are paid for from our membership dues. AFC maintains a constant and important presence in the Colorado Statehouse to talk to the legislators and educate them on the important issues needing change. We participate in the Sex Offender Management Board committee meetings. Our presence is important as we present accurate information that benefits our community and society. We also attend Colorado-Cure meetings, CCJJ meetings, educational seminars and pertinent community functions.

All of the AFC board members are unpaid volunteers who have a passion to help others. Yours and your family's memberships are greatly appreciated and we thank you for your support.

## Editorial Policy

*The Advocate* is published by Advocates for Change. We provide information on our efforts to affect change in legislation, treatment, and re-integration into the community, primarily for those who have been convicted of a sex offense. Nothing offered by AFC is intended to be legal advice, and any information provided should never be a substitute for obtaining counsel and/or conducting your own research.

Submissions from inmates/offenders, parolees, and members, are encouraged. Please limit articles to 300 words. The editor reserves the right to publish all, part or none of the contributions submitted. Send contributions for publication and/or comments on the newsletter to: Advocates for Change, Newsletter Editor, PO Box 103392, Denver, CO 80250.

## PLEASE JOIN US

Membership Fee is \$25 for family membership, \$5 per year for returning citizens, and 8 stamps for those on the inside. Any additional donations are gratefully accepted.

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter preference:  regular news letter  
 plain newsletter in plain envelope  
 email  
 do not sent a newsletter

Please feel free to share an application with a friend or a family member. Call 720-329-9096, if you have any questions or comments.

**Send membership applications to: AFC Membership  
P. O. Box 103392  
Denver, CO 80250**



**Advocates for Change  
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