

**Minutes of January 7, 2018 MOSES Monthly Meeting
St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 4011 Major Ave., Madison**

Next Meeting: 3:30-5:30, Sunday, February 4, 2018, at TBD.

48 people attended, of which 6 were new.

Meeting was conducted by Talib Akbar, MOSES Designated Vice President.
Minutes were recorded by Mary Wells, MOSES Assistant Secretary.

Welcome message from St. Luke's Episcopal Leadership Team

Michael Marshall from St. Luke's Episcopal said they are thrilled to have MOSES offices located here now and that the whole congregation is looking forward to meeting MOSES people. Welcome and please enjoy the facility.

Opening prayer and reflection

S. Joan Duerst, Patti LaCrosse, and another person provided the opening reflection today. S. Joan mentioned that Katharine Goray who currently is at Seminary, is also one of the chaplains at Dane County Jail. Katharine will be ordained on January 21st at Zion City International on Regent Street. If you are able to attend please do so.

Round-robin introductions; also introduced new officers: Secretary Barbie Jackson, Assistant Secretary Mary Wells, Vice President Alison Mix (not present-vacationing), Treasurer Janice Greening.

Main program: Presentation on EXPO campaigns and organizing progress

Jerome Dillard who is the state director of EXPO (EX Prisoners Organizing) was our main speaker today. Jerome said January 17th is a big day statewide for WISDOM and that all the GAMALIEL networks around the country will be having activities going on. Here in Madison WISDOM and EXPO are coming together to address revocations which is what their work is revolved around. Jerome asked anyone and everyone who can to show up on January 17th at Grace Episcopal Church on the square 116 W. Washington Ave. from 12 noon to 2pm to listen to testimony and responses from gubernatorial candidates. Ann Hodges mentioned that some of the members of the social justice committee of Grace Episcopal Church will be present to greet us. Jerome said we expect the candidates to address our questions around revocation and criminal justice reform in our state. Invitations to media have gone out, and more are expected to go out closer to the event. David Liners mentioned that 7 gubernatorial candidates will be present, and that afterwards some members of WISDOM will be going across the street to deliver materials to current congressional representatives who may not have attended. MOSES members were encouraged to wear either their MOSES or WISDOM t-shirts to call attention to our advocacy. See below for links to background materials on crimeless revocations and how to obtain a t-shirt. Jerome talked about Governor Walker's proposed closing of Lincoln Hills and opening 5 new juvenile prisons around the state to move current youth incarcerated at Lincoln Hills. Jerome said he was present as Representative Evan Goyke introduced a bill a couple of weeks ago at the capitol, which would be on a much faster track than the recently announced

proposal from the Governor. Jerome is concerned that things may not happen as it pertains to the goals of our criminal justice reform efforts.

Jerome gave a little backdrop information about EXPO which stands for EX Prisoners Organizing, organized in 2014 as individuals who are formerly incarcerated who get together with WISDOM and the statewide meetings. Both Talib Akbar and Frank Davis have been a part of EXPO since its founding and both are board members. Jerome said they have chapters in the Fox Cities, Eau Claire, Milwaukee, Racine, Madison and Superior. It is growing his hope that EXPO will share more information and have better collaboration around the state.

Campaign to close the Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility (MSDF)

Jerome shared a little about closing the MSDF Campaign that the Milwaukee chapter initiated. Revocations have been an issue in our state for many many years. Jerome worked in the Dane County Jail and he guesstimates that 70% of all the men in the Dane County Jail are on revocation holds which is a leading driver for incarceration in our state, and accounts for new intakes at Dodge. Most revocation imprisonments are for rule violations. There are close to 4,000 who went back into prisons last year not for committing new crimes but for revocations. The Department makes a statement that many of them committed crimes after they were revoked. Jerome said he personally knows individuals who went back to prison for 15, 18, 24 months because they were charged with a disorderly conduct or other misdemeanor crime and revoked before the case could be heard in court. In some cases the Judge had already sentenced them for 30 days for the offense, but they are actually doing 15 to 18 months. That's a real issue, a shame and a real black eye to the state of Wisconsin if this is what we are locking people up for. His personal perspective is that we are keeping the numbers up to justify building new prisons in our state.

Amongst other personal comments, Jerome included that our system here is broken and that other states have reduced prison populations, and have closed prisons, and kept individuals in the communities and taking care of their families. This is a very important year for us in this state. We must be aware of positions that individuals are taking who are bidding for election in the legislature and Governor. We have 480 individuals in county jails where we budgeted for 500. Once we hit that number, the 501st person will be sent out of state and generally that is to a private prison.

The exterior of the MSDF building appears to be a beautiful building but in fact is inhumane, as individuals are deprived of sunlight, fresh air, no human contact and all visits are through video, locked down 22-23 hours a day, no air conditioning and 17 people have died there including one EXPO member. The campaign to close the MSDF has taken off and has gone national. James Morgan added that Racine Correctional facility in Sturdevant also has torturous conditions and is a mirror image of MSDF. It's important for MOSES and EXPO to show up and question people who are leading our state forward. James said death and torture is not the sentence. We are the voice of people who can't speak for those no longer with us because of these conditions. If we do not question it and show up in force many more are going to suffer. And the juvenile systems being set up are being set up to get our children into

them. James said that for Talib and himself this has been a reality as they have personally lived through it.

Mothers In Chains

Someone raised the questions about Mothers in Chains toward the end of Jerome's presentation. Rachel Morgan, Patti LaCrosse, S. Joan Duerst, Talib, Barbie Jackson and Jerome each shared comments about the Mothers In Chains issue started by Lena Taylor who brought in experts at the State Senate to testify. This topic is high on the charts in Eau Claire, Green Bay and is getting momentum statewide. Minnesota and other states are very invested in this issue. It was suggested that this topic be an item on next month's agenda. Jerome said he spoke with Tamara recently about this issue, and many EXPO members talked about possibly creating a task force around this to work collaboratively with all affiliates of WISDOM and EXPO. They will begin with conference call discussions to start getting information out to each other. It was decided that further discussion of this topic be moved to the February agenda item.

Information Forum on Crimeless Revocations

January 17th

12 Noon

Grace Episcopal Church

117 W. Washington Ave.

Seven candidates for Governor and one candidate for Lieutenant Governor have committed to attending and learning about the problem of Crimeless Revocations in Wisconsin, and stating how they would handle it.

Click [here](#) to find WISDOM's extensive report on Crimeless Revocations.

Click [here](#) to download the Executive Summary.

Click [here](#) to download personal stories by victims of Wisconsin's unjust revocations policy.

 [2018-01-09 MOSES-2 How to Buy a T-shirt for Rev...](#)

County Board Resolution to increase TAD funding

(Karen Julesberg)

MOSES members and friends are urged to contact their County Board Supervisors to ask them to support County Board Resolution 333, "In Support of Increasing State Funding for and Expanding Access to the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) Grant Program." The vote is January 18th. See details about the resolution, how to contact your supervisor, and suggestions for your talking points here:

 [2018-01-09 MOSES-1: Support for County Board Re...](#)

WISDOM conference calls 605-468-8012

- Solitary: Jan 9, 4:00 PM (2nd Tuesday) Use code 423950

- Prison Prevention: Jan 9, 5:00 PM (2nd Tuesday) Use code 423950
- Old Law: Jan 13, 8:30 AM (2nd Saturday) Use code 423950
- Post Release: Jan 25, 7:30 PM (4th Thursday) Use Code 423951

Announcements

1. (Tim)
Thanked MOSES, WISDOM & EXPO for all of their hard work in criminal justice reform and announced the following event:

January 27th
First Unitarian Society
New Year's Revolution/Community Meal
Time: 6pm
Location: James Reeb Unitarian Universalist
2146 E. Johnson St.
Madison
2. (Mark)
Announced the following event:
January 27th
Seeds Of Peace-Madison "Let's Talk About It!"
Time: 9:30 - Noon
Monona United Methodist Church
606 Nichols Rd.
Madison
3. (Tom)
Reported that Nino Rodriguez and Amelia Royko Maurer sent an email regarding the City of Madison finance committee budget wanting to include \$600,000 to add more police officers and squad cars. He is asking people to write emails to ask them to hold off making a decision about it. There are recommendations but there is no data.
4. Another person said please attend the following meeting

Saturday March 24th (Save the date)
10th Annual Wisconsin Grassroots Festival
Wisconsin Heights High School
10173 US Hwy. 14
Mazomainie
5. (Janet Frieswyk)
Spoke about the **Let me vote** coalition which includes several organizations. There is a statewide telephone number (608) 285-2141 for ACLU Voter Assistance that people can call to get information about where their voting location is, how to get the proper ID for voting, and to request free transportation to the DMV if needed. She also

discussed what you need to take to the DMV, and who can give rides. Jan handed out posters for people to post in their faith communities and businesses.

6. Sustaining contributions (Ann Lacy)

There are now a total of 14 people signed up to do Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) with regular monthly contributions; some as low as \$10 per month while others are quite substantially higher. We have for years had people who have given regularly via check. Using EFT we are on track to bring in \$4,620.00 for 2018; while in 2017 starting in August we took in \$1,155.00. While it will not make all the difference in the world it will cover something like several months of rent. So bear in mind that this is an ongoing possibility. Take a form, fill it out, otherwise you can still write a check if you are uncomfortable with EFT.

7. Fundraising announcement (Patti LaCrosse)

Patti discussed how doing a series of City Wide Scrabble Tournaments as fundraisers 10 years ago was successful. She was thinking of doing a 'pop-up' event during Lent where we could have materials on Mothers In Chains and Revocation, and Detention Center issues. Her thought was to work with the Feed Kitchen to do pretzels shaped like handcuffs that came in a box that had little fortune cookie notes about some of these issues, or we could do something like a 'break the chains' theme. Auntie Anne's pretzels sell for \$3.29 a piece, we could sell ours for \$5.00. These and other ideas are new ideas that she hasn't introduced to the fundraising committee yet. She hopes people are out there that want to play scrabble.

8. Banquet feedback survey (Barbie Jackson)

We sold over 180 tickets with a net income including the silent auction in excess of \$7,000. We would greatly appreciate your feedback on our recent banquet, whether you attended or not, so we can improve the event in the future. Please take the survey below by clicking on the link and following the instructions. The survey closes at 11:30 pm on January 21st. It should take you no more than 10 minutes to complete.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MOSES_2017_Banquet_Survey

James Morgan & Talib Akbar offered closing reflections.

One Word Evaluation (round robin)

ROC Wisconsin Prayer