

Vol. 7, Issue 2

SOSEN NEWS

Sex Offender Solutions & Education Network

Donations Needed: SOSEN CEO Lynn Gilmore Appears on Paula Gloria Show

by Lynn Gilmore

Every so often, we put out a call for donations or membership dues or both, and usually with little response. There are a lot of people out there and on our forums that have big ideas on what SOSEN should be doing, but when it comes down to forking over the funds to help achieve those lofty goals, not many step up to the plate.

It's understandable; the notion to sit on the side lines and watch others go to bat for you, a lot of us do it. You're probably waiting for the coast to clear and any sign of trouble to go away before you are willing to stick your neck out there and get more involved. A lot of you are waiting until our numbers grow enough before you will begin to participate. Again, this is understandable, but with over 750,000 *families* on the national sex offender registry, I would think we would have more soldiers in our midst to help us win the war against sex offenders than we have. If we all sit around waiting for others to make the first move, nothing will ever get accomplished.

Currently, SOSEN has just over 200 members on the forum, and of those, maybe a handful are actively posting on our forum every day. I don't even do it. I am working in other capacities on other projects, not the least of which is this newsletter.

If you wonder why we don't have more members, it's because we go in and delete old or unused accounts. We prefer to keep the membership count accurate and people who joined years ago but haven't been back *really* shouldn't be counted. Besides, anyone who has found their account deleted can always come back and apply for a new account. When I first joined SOSEN, I didn't post, I only read, and after a few weeks, I quit coming to the forum all together. After a certain amount of time had passed, even *my* account was deleted! It was no trouble to create a new one.

One of the things members have suggested we do is get out there more publicly and be interviewed and talk about how ineffective sex offender legislation really is. These opportunities do not come every day, and after my experience with Dr. Drew last fall, I learned that just because an opportunity comes up doesn't mean I should take it. We all need to be careful with the media and choose only those that would serve us well and put us in the best light, being fair and open minded about the issues.

Such an opportunity has come my way.

Author Ken Kish (Despised Things) has been working with Paula Gloria to do a show on her program in New York City on April 21, 2012.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

If this is your first time receiving this newsletter, please do not be alarmed. We want you to know that you are not alone and we are here to help you, if you need it.

We contacted you because you or someone you know is listed on the registry and we will absolutely NOT share any of your information with anyone. We want you to know that there is support for you and your family members.

If you or someone you know would like to subscribe to this newsletter, please call 1-800-773-4319 or email lynn.gilmore13@yahoo.com.

ReformSexOffenderLaws.Org

**4th National RSOL Conference
September 7-10, 2012
Albuquerque, New Mexico**

Paula Gloria's channel can be viewed here: <http://www.youtube.com/user/paulagloria>

Ken has also invited two other authors, Derek Logue of *Once Fallen* and myself as the author of *Consensual Consequences*, to appear with him on the show. This panel will cover many of the sex offender fundamental issues that plague sex offenders' daily lives in an effort to help bring awareness to the general public, and thus a positive change.

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Paula does not have a huge following but has a steady loyal one, and with over 900 videos on her channel with over a million views, we all feel this could open doors for future opportunities for all involved.

As a non partisan and non bias outside individual, Paula is what we like to call, "sex offender friendly," and is helping and supporting our cause. I would like to push for support by all for Paula and her work. Please visit her YouTube channel, subscribe, and maybe send a message of appreciation, by putting 'SO show with Ken & Guests' in the subject box.

All travel expenses for Derek and myself are not covered. We are seeking donations from members and non-members to help offset these expenses. Please contribute as much as you can. You can use the form below and send a check to: SOSEN, PO box 235, Dixon, IL 61021.

You can also make a donation via Paypal by clicking on the Paypal button on our home page at: <http://www.sosen.org/>

Please specify that your donations are for the Paula Gloria show, and remember, your donations are tax deductible. ■

Remember, it's not Punishment

by Randy English

In 2003 the sex offender registry was found to be civil/regulatory and not punishment. This ruling by the Supreme Court of the United States, known as Smith V. Doe is the backbone for politicians when enacting new legislation targeting former sex offenders.

Since 2003 the limits of this ruling have been tested in courts across the land. It seems that legislators are more than ready to ignore the constitution for this one group, sex offenders.

For a moment let's look at some things that have been added to the registry that, had they been in place in 2003, would have forced SCOTUS to rule the registry punitive and unconstitutional.

Residency Restrictions – In most states residency restrictions have been forced on former offenders. In many cases this is a violation of ex-post-fact law. It is not a scientific approach to protecting children. Many studies by qualified professionals have proven that residency restrictions are ineffective, counterproductive.

Movement Restrictions – Some state have NO ZONES. These zones, such as parks, schools and public libraries, all government owned structures, are off limits to former offenders. There are no exceptions in most cases. So even if former offender is a parent and their child attends school, they cannot attend such things as parent teacher conference or a play or even the graduation of their child. If their child needs to go to the library, even if it is in a part of town that is not safe, the parent cannot accompany their child. If a park is the only place the child can play, the parent, if they are a former offender cannot accompany the child, even for the child's protection. This is certainly a restriction of rights of the child, but is it civil (regulatory) or punitive for the offender?

Employment Restrictions – Some states restrict where a person can work or what licenses (pertaining to work) that they can hold. No other group has such restrictions. In fact, in a country that prides itself on free enterprise the registry imposes the harshest permanent penalties on one small group, former offenders.

Travel Restrictions – Many states do not allow former offenders to travel freely. What I mean is that former offenders must register within a certain number of days, even if they that are just going on vacation. The original intent of the registry was to know where the person lived. Now this has expanded beyond where the person lives to where they travel.

It is also becoming the norm to require former offenders to inform their local registering agency so many days before they plan on leaving for vacation, to in effect get permission before they travel.

Internet access/website restrictions - Many states are imposing restrictions on internet activity that for any other group would be considered unconstitutional. Through persuasion the government has enlisted private companies to write

We Need Your Help!

SOSEN is an all-volunteer organization; we do not have any paid staff.

All donations go directly to our cause.

We are also tax exempt; all contributions may be tax deductible.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Please keep me informed:
(Optional & Anonymous)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

☐ \$5 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$20

☐ \$100 ☐ \$_____

Please specify what donation is designated for, if any:

Please send all contributions to: **SOSEN, PO box 235, Dixon, IL 61021**

Thank you for your support, any contributions provided to our struggle is greatly appreciated and helps us a long way.

Anonymous Donations Accepted

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terms of use statements to banish this one group from their ranks.

One website, Facebook, is a primary source of reaching the public by political leaders and government entities, not to mention private business. By disallowing sex offenders from Facebook they are in effect discriminating against them.

A newly proposed law targeting sex offenders in New York is gaining popularity. The proposal is to keep sex offenders out of video gaming activities on the internet. This proposal is being hailed as a way to further protect children on-line. However no statistical evidence exists that provides proof that this extra restriction will protect anyone. In the internet world today it is not only children that play online games. The facts show that many of those games should be off limits to children under 18 years as they hold a mature rating. So who will be protected by kicking an adult out of a game site made for adults?

Collecting Internet Identifiers – Every person in the United States is afforded the protection of the right to free speech and along with that is anonymous speech. Everyone except former offenders that is. This requirement attached to the registry disallows former offenders the right to comment on blogs, anomalously, regarding political and social issues. It opens them to reprisals from political and law enforcement and vigilantes, merely for exercising their first amendment rights. What backing from science does this law have in protecting children? It is civil or punitive?

The registry is triggered by a conviction for breaking a criminal law and only that small group (sex offenders) are affected by the restrictions and requirements that pertain to the registry. No other group is affected in the same manner. But for a moment let's ask the question; Are these restrictions and

requirements civil/regulatory or punitive/punishment?

Defining Civil:

Civil law is for such things as marriage licenses and parking fines. These laws work equally for all people, not just for one group of people. Civil = If you (any person) fails to pay a parking ticket you get a fine or your car gets towed. Works equally for all people.

The registry and its many far reaching laws now attached to it bring a kind of intensive supervision that would normally be directed at those on probation or parole, and no one else. This intensive supervision is considered part of the punishment (punitive) the person receives for their conviction. However for former offenders this supervision is renamed and called "civil". This is the crux of the matter. Simply put, lawmakers are playing a game of change the name. Legislators, the media and everyone else are fully well aware that the registry has become punitive; it is far more restrictive than the laws that were in place when Smith v. Doe was heard by SCOTUS. The registry is now more restrictive in many ways than probation/parole restrictions and those restrictions, by definition are punitive.

Defining Punitive:

If a former offender fails to register or triggers any of the registry requirements they are punished severely, in most cases receiving prison sentences and a felony conviction. This is clearly punitive. But let's prove it.

By definition of current P&P probation/parole laws are punitive. Sex offender registry laws now equal P&P restrictions and requirements. Residence restrictions (P&P and former sex offender (SO) requirements), banishments (uniquely former sex offenders), Forced to live under bridges as part of the law (SO only) employment

restrictions (P&P and SO), travel restrictions (P&P and SO), social discriminations on-line (SO only), free speech impediments on-line (SO only), NO ZONES (SO only)

It is all so clear, the registry is now punitive but holds the title as regulatory. In time a case will come before SCOTUS and those justices will be forced to uphold the constitution and tell lawmakers that they crossed the line so far that the registry is not just mildly punitive it is overly unconstitutionally punitive by anyone's definition.

The question then is uncomplicated, "what side of the U.S. Constitution do you want to be on?" "Are you a patriot in name only?" The constitution was written for every American. ■

SOSEN'S Annual Open Meeting June 24

by Lynn Gilmore

Once a year, SOSEN has an "open meeting" in a conference call format, and this year the meeting will be held Sunday night, June 24, 2012. We will be using our American Reality Check "channel" on Talkshoe which will be open to everyone. You can either call in or just listen to the call on the internet. The chat room will be available simultaneously, so anyone listening via the internet can still ask questions or comment using the chat room. This is a great format for all who want to ask questions, comment or just listen in.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. eastern time, 6 p.m. central time, so please, everyone, plan to attend. Mark your calendars! This is a great time to hear what direction SOSEN is going in and this will be a great opportunity to share your ideas. We encourage your participation.

To attend, please visit <http://goo.gl/QXnhD> or call (724) 444-7444, Call ID: 29521 any time just before or during the meeting. ■

*T*here is no such thing as a dispensable
person anywhere in this country.
We must quit treating them as such.

~David Keenan,
Former Chief, Teslin Tlingit Council



SOSEN

**IS WORKING TO MAINTAIN THE CONSTITUTIONAL
RIGHTS FOR ALL OF OUR CITIZENS**



PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE