

# STATEVILLE

## SPEAKS

VOICES FROM INSIDE...

SEPTEMBER 2006

## New Position for Dee Battaglia

Bill Ryan

### IN THIS *Issue*

- ? PAGE ONE – A New Position for Dee Battaglia
- ? PAGE TWO – Status of the HJR-80 Appointments
- ? PAGE FOUR

*hope / change / redemption*

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# Coverage

INMATES IN EACH DOC PRISON CAN SUBMIT ARTICLES TO  
STATEVILLE SPEAKS

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### Correction to Special Issue on HJR80 (August 2006)

Fred Wilson's name was mistakenly not included as the author of the "Letter to Illinois Officials and the Future HJR80 Committee." Our apologies for this omission |

# Essays, Letters and Insight

PROPOSALS AND PERSUASIVE EDITORIALS

## Rest

Andre Patterson - *Continued from the Creative Writing issue*  
(June 2006 Literary Issue)

**H**e had been drinking heavily since

16. Now, his alcohol consumption had been steadily increasing since the time he had been drinking heavily since

Andre Patterson is a writer and editor. He has written for many years and has been published in various literary journals and magazines. He is currently working on a novel.

Bill Ryan

The March 2007 edition of *Stateville Speaks* will be devoted to women's issues. Lately many women have written me, and I hope they and several others will contribute to this issue. Topics can be whatever women prisoners want to write about: healthcare, family, programs, spirituality, etc.. Poems and essays are encouraged but please no individual cases.

*Stateville Speaks* has grown tremendously over the past two years. We started with an eight-page

*From the Publisher Continued...*

a nationwide newspaper that would address issues facing lifers and long-termers.

We could not have achieved what we have without the prisoners who contribute regularly as well as supporters like Ibi Cole, whose talent for formatting changed the face of *Stateville Speaks*; Katy Ryan who does the copyediting; Shaena Fazal who assists in a variety of ways; Sonnenschein, Nath & Rosenthal, Loevy & Loevy, and the Uptown People's Law Center whose *pro bono* support of *Stateville Speaks* allows us to continue to exist. A special thanks to the Mychael Thompson family and to Illinoisprisonstalk.com for posting *Stateville Speaks* on its website.

During the past two years as a result of viewing prisons from the inside as a volunteer who spent considerable time "walking the galleries," I am acutely aware of the funding issues facing the IDOC. There must be more staff in order to develop programs while maintaining security if the IDOC is to become what the name implies, a Department of Corrections. *Stateville Speaks* will advocate for additional monies for IDOC. Also, I would like again to encourage IDOC staff to submit articles to *Stateville Speaks*. One of our primary goals is to promote a safe, secure prison environment, and we hear a lot from the prisoners but we would like to hear more from staff. We will



*Rest Continued...*

He knew for sure he was dying. He cried with remorse for those he saw in his head; those who had been victims of his ignorance. He sobbed for those who had been unsuspectingly trapped by his delusion and had to suffer because of his selfishness.

He could still hear the voice, the good voice. But now instead of an alluring whisper, it sounded like a desperate cry. Each word uttered felt like a knife plunging deeper and deeper



# Post-Conviction Hearing Act

## Assistance

Joe Dole

The Post-Conviction Hearing Act is a confusing morass of procedural headaches. Just getting started and learning what not to do can be, and usually is, overwhelming for prisoners. The following 12 cases, statutes, and resources will help you get a better understanding. So if you're getting ready to file a post-conviction petition take the time to get all of the following and go over each thoroughly.

1) Write to the Illinois Bar Association and request a free copy of *Post Trial Remedies — A Handbook For Illinois Prisoners*. Illinois Bar Association; 424 S. 2nd Street; Springfield, IL 62701-1779

2). Next go to the prison law library or have someone **find Lawfnder.com** and other free websites and download the following study, statutes, and 9 cases (all decision dates and docket numbers are included to make searches easier):

- Post-Conviction Hearing Act, 725 ILCS 5/122-i to 5/122-8
- 34 Loy.U.Chi.L.J.639 -- Impact of Recent Decisions Upon Proceedings Under the Post-Conviction Hearing Act- Loyola University Chicago Law Journal, Spring 2003
- People v. Coleman, 183 Ill. 2d 366, 701 N.E. 2d 1063, 233 Ill. Dec 789 (Decided oc ,1998, Docket # 81441 )
- People v. Edwards, 197 Ill. 2d 239, 757 N.E. 2d 442, 258 Iii. Dec. 753 (Decided Sept. 20, 2001, Docket # 87930)
- People v. Smith, 326 Ill. App. 3d 831, 761 N.E. 2d 306, 260 Ill. Dec. 462 (Decided Dec. 7, 2001, Docket # 1-00-1341)
- People v. Pittsonbarger, 205 Iii. 2d 444, 793 N.E. 2d 609, 275 Ill. Dec. 838 (Decided May 23, 2002, Docket # 89368)
- People v. Bocclair, 202 Ill. 2d 29, 789 N.E. 2d 734, 273 Ill. Dec. 560 (Decided Aug. 29, 2002. Docket #'s 89388, 89471, and 89534)
- People v. Rissley, 206 Ill. 2d 403, 795 N.E. 2d 174, 276 Iii. Dec. 821 (Decided June 19, 2003, Docket #

82536)

People v. Paleologas, 345 Ill. App. 3d 700, 803 N.E. 2d 108, 280 111. Dec. 878 (Decided Dec. 23, 2003, Docket # 1-02-2631)

- People v. Blair, 215 Ill. 2d 427, 831 N.E. 2d 604, 294 Ill. Dec. 654 (Decided June 3, 2005, Docket # 96198)
- People v. Lander, 2005 WL 1342246 (Decided June 3, 2005, Docket # 98433) }

## Addressing the Reason

by L.M.L

As a prisoner I am often rebellious as to why I was convicted. I complain that I am innocent: that I did not receive a fair trial because of my race, my education, my incompetent lawyer etc. etc. I got railroaded I say; it isn't my fault. But after many years of believing that I was dealt an unfair blow I had to evaluate my sins, my faults, my errors. I had to go beyond the judgment of man into the vision of God.

Some people did commit the crimes for



# Creative Corner

POEMS, WRITINGS, CONNOTATIONS...

## Peace

by Willie Scales

Peace is one of the great  
words of the bible  
Peace is harmony and oneness  
with God's purpose  
God is the God of wholeness  
the God who has it all together  
the God of Peace |

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## A Poem for Those That Continue to Care

by Jojulien Hicks

You've supported us through the  
toughest of times  
On the gloomy days, provided  
sunshine  
Never judged anyone or looked down  
on us,  
Even smiled on the days when you  
could have fussed  
Saying thank you is not enough, I  
wish I could do more  
For so many of us you have opened  
up doors  
You're an angel without wings, right  
here on earth  
And to me you're kings and queens  
for what its worth  
Your heart is sincere with no strings  
attached  
Your work here is dear and you can't  
change that  
So for the happiness you bring and  
the things that you do  
I just wanted to take time out and  
thank you! |



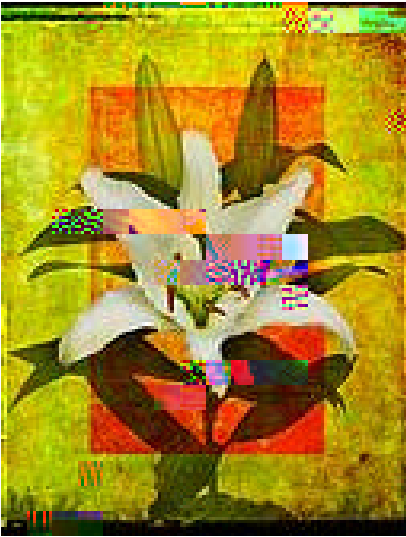
### **ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 7, 2006**

October issue of *Stateville Speaks* will cover  
election issues.

#### **REGISTER TO VOTE:**

If you're not registered to vote and meet the  
criteria (US Citizen, 18 years old, not convicted  
and incarcerated), you have until October 10 to  
register to vote. Contact your local county clerk's  
office to find out where to register, or visit  
[www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov) to download a mail in voter  
registration form.

You can now **VOTE EARLY**: Early Voting  
begins October 16 and ends on November 2.  
Contact your local election authority or go to  
[www.elections.il.gov](http://www.elections.il.gov) to find out where the early  
voting polling places are in your area. |



## Wasted Lillies

by Donald McDonald

There is a cool breeze within my  
heart,  
drifting through the window of my  
mind,  
my soul no longer a light with the  
frills of open flight,

No white mornings of romantic song,  
whispered thrills and joyous giggles,  
infatuates my thoughtless muse,

LearnWigdo hEosce happy tobybeJahnicks tD. rESti