

# Prison Voices

## Supplemental Information

**About Me & Prison Voices:** I launched Prison Voices in mid-December of 2009, a year after I was released from federal prison, simply because I was NOT one of those people who would simply get out and forget where he came from. In fact, I think about my old friends every day. I swore to each of them I would find a way to help them with anything they needed (I'm sure you had friends that said the same thing, but I followed through). The creation of this website was my main promise to them. I offer three membership levels on Prison Voices (explained below). Many inmates have hooked up with pen pals through the Bronze service, which costs only a \$10 setup fee. The Bronze membership is identical to the ones other pen pal sites offer for about \$40 a year. I'm hoping to make Prison Voices grow beyond its competition simply by having much lower prices on memberships. I had formerly offered the Bronze membership for free, but I was severely losing money by running Prison Voices and I just couldn't do it anymore. ☹

**Chances of Getting a Pen Pal:** Above, I mentioned that many inmates have had success with the Bronze membership. In truth, this equals about 30~40% of all inmates listed on Prison Voices. There are a few misconceptions about prison penpaling. For one, there is no guarantee that you will ever receive mail from a pen pal. I can't twist anyone's arm to make them write to you—it's all up to them. All I can do for my part is to bring a large demographic of people to the Prison Voices website and hope that each and every person leaves with a new friend. People also ask, "How long should it be till I start receiving mail?" Again, I can't twist anyone's arm, so it could be a week, or it could be a year. People visiting the website have the ability to browse profiles by gender, age, location, ethnicity and so on—so whatever type of person they're looking for, I made sure they can find them. So in short, Prison Voices does what it can to help find you a new friend, but as such is life, nothing is guaranteed.

**Silver and Gold Memberships:** The Silver and Gold memberships are offered to those who want more exposure for themselves and have a better chance of receiving mail from a pen pal. These memberships (described below) give you a much higher chance of receiving mail because a link to your profile will appear in many places around the website, and on the Prison Voices "Fan Page" on Facebook.com, (197,000+ members), most of whom are looking for pen pals. **Federal inmates using CorrLinks:** With Silver and Gold, visitors to your profile can leave me their email address and a short note, which I'll then pass on to you. Remember to add inmates@prisonvoices.com to your email list. If you choose a premium membership and send your application back to me to be set up, you'll need to have your institution make a check payable to **Marvin A. Boling** and they will, in most cases, send it to me. This fee will only need to be paid once, and it will apply to your account for your entire prison term. For existing members, your account can be upgraded any time simply by sending a check of the appropriate amount. There is no word limit on bios for Silver and Gold memberships. Anything you've paid toward your current account will be deducted from the price of your upgrade.

**Your Own Facebook Page:** As described on the application, Gold members will have their own Facebook page that will be created and maintained by Prison Voices. The only purpose for the Facebook page is for exposure. Many people online search for people on Facebook—NOT ones searching for a pen pal, but most likely an old friend of yours or a distant family member just wondering what happened to you. Most people on Facebook aren't there to look for a prison pen pal. The Facebook page is ONLY there so that \*anyone\* can find you. The only information included on your Facebook page is your name, photo, your bio, mailing address, and a link to your Prison Voices profile. At the top will be a short note saying you're in prison, and to contact you by snail mail. A printout of your Facebook page will be included.