

H A R L A N R I C H A R D S

February 9, 2015

Hobby Vendor Update

On December 15, 2014, I commented on how the Wisconsin DOC issued a memo restricting prisoners to only one vendor for purchasing hobby supplies - and that vendor was charging twice as much as we used to pay for many items.

Last week, the DOC issued a memo stating that the exclusive hobby contract was currently under review. I assume that means they are considering whether to rescind the contract for Bargain Crafts.

Most likely, there have been numerous complaints about the poor service. Orders are delayed or never filled, items are listed as out of stock and price corrections are being made to the catalog.

On the other hand, I like to think that my letters to the Wisconsin Attorney General and the Dane County District Attorney resulted in the initiation of an investigation for commission of a Class H felony by the DOC staff ~~was~~ ^{who} set up the illegal monopoly.

Either way, it's good news for the prisoners and their families. Maybe it will force the DOC to create and approval process which provides for fair prices and competition among numerous vendors - something so reasonable that even conventional art supply vendors will be approved for us to use.