



Association of Paroling Authorities International

February 2009 Newsletter

Welcome to APAI's monthly online E-forum newsletter. Our goal is threefold: to provide you with timely information about APAI, to initiate a 'conversation' with and among members, and to highlight accomplishments and new practices in the field of parole/release. As a bonus, this format will help save our Earth's precious resources.

If you have difficulty viewing this newsletter click here:

<http://www.apaintl.org/content/en/pdf/Feb2009.pdf>

This month's issue contains:

- *A message from APAI President Charles Traughber (TN)*
- *Relationship Building and Expanding the APAI Network from Vice-President Garland Hunt (GA)*
- *A message from Vice President of the International Section Renée Collette (Canada) on expanding our international influence*
- *A response to the Canadian report on psychopaths and parole boards*
- *A message from Past President Lisa Holley (RI) on conference workshops*
- *In the News - Stimulus Bill & Criminal Justice*

The President's Message

Dear Members,

There are several exciting items I want to bring to your attention this month. During this year's 25th Annual Training Conference in Newport, Rhode Island on April 19th through April 22nd conference, we will provide you with networking opportunities and a forum to engage your colleagues in conversations on issues affecting how we conduct our business. We have an exciting agenda planned for our conference which includes a live satellite telecast on mental health sponsored by the National Institute of Corrections

(NIC) and the host planning committee is hard at work to ensure its success.

I would encourage you to register, via our Web site www.apaintl.org/en/tr_atc09.html, we only have *50 rooms left* at the discounted government rate of *\$120 per night*. We have spent considerable time developing this year's conference because we may not be able to offer any other opportunities later on this year.

Whether or not you are able to attend, we need your donations for our silent auction. Contact Mathew Degnan, matthew.degnan@doc.ri.gov, to arrange delivery.

As a reminder, 2009 dues must be submitted no later than February 28th 2009. I would like to thank for the following organizations for their 2009 membership commitment:

Wyoming, Rhode Island, Ohio, Massachusetts, Texas, Kansas, New Mexico, Vermont, Montana, Puerto Rico, Maryland Crime Center, Delaware, and Nevada.

I also wanted share with you that beginning with our March 2009 newsletter, we will feature the APAI members who, despite challenging work environments, are role models for practitioners of parole/release. We are all very aware that the media often highlights instances where things go wrong; we want to highlight the many successes that we are having and the positive impact these successes are having on our communities.

We need to support each other. What better way to do so than giving each other a "cyber pat" on the back? If you want to say "good job" to someone on your board or in your department, or share a valuable lesson learned, please send an email with the person's name, title and a short descriptive paragraph and we will be sure to feature it in future newsletters.

During the past two months, the executive committee has been transitioning its operations from Bea Leopold of BL Communications to Hyacinth Miller, our account manager at MorrisAllsop, LLC. We ask for your continued patience while we complete the transfer of administrative duties.

In order to make communications easier and more efficient for our members, we have acquired a toll-free number where you can reach us, 877.318.APAI and if there are any questions, concerns or comments, please feel free to email me at PresidentTraugher@apaintl.org. Our mailing address is now APAI, c/o MorrisAllsop, LLC, 14 Wall Street, 20th Floor, New York, New York 10005. We want to welcome MorrisAllsop as our new administrative support firm.

Please visit the Web site, www.apaintl.org, to stay abreast of news affecting the organization and the paroling community.

See you in April.
Warm regards,
Charles

Relationship Building and Expanding the APAI Network – Garland Hunt (GA)

This week, a group of APAI representatives will be meeting with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) to discuss the NIC's newly created Comprehensive Framework for

Paroling Authorities. The goal of this meeting is to discuss what role APAI will play in disseminating and implementing the framework in the APAI member states. NIC and APAI are collaborating to strengthen and increase the standards of Evidence Based Practices nationwide.

In addition, I have been in conversations with Adam Gelb, Pew Charitable Trusts, on possible future collaborations and mutual policy driven projects. We have invited PEW to join us at the April Training Conference in Rhode Island and to present their work on reentry.

Our International Community – Renee Collette (Canada)

As Vice President of the International Section, I have been reaching out to our international colleagues to attract them to the Association as well as to register for the 2009 Training Conference in Newport, Rhode Island. I have also asked them to help identify other partners who may be interested in APAI.

Last fall, I distributed APAI flyers to more than 100 participants at the International Corrections and Prisons Association (ICPA) Annual General Meeting and Conference in Prague, Czech Republic. APAI wish to liaise more and more with partners across the globe and encourages their participation to the Conference and to the Association.

In July 2007, I was invited by the New Zealand Parole Board (NZPB) to present at their International Seminar on Parole. The theme of the seminar, as well as the title of my presentation, was *"The Value of Parole in a Civilized Society"*. The presentation was given on behalf of the National Parole Board of Canada as well as APAI. The presentation was published in the Fall 2007 issue of the International Community Corrections Association's *Journal of Community Corrections*. A number of extracts of the presentation were also quoted in the New Zealand Parole Board's 2007-2008 Annual Report.

Following my presentation in New Zealand, the Chairperson as well as the Executive Director of the NZPB attended APAI's 2008 conference in Louisville, KY and subsequently spent 10 days with us at the National Parole Board of Canada to learn more about its parole system.

If you would like copies of any of the documents mentioned above please contact Marsha Willard at willardmm@npb-cnrc.gc.ca or by calling (613) 954-6119.

In The News

In 2009 *The British Psychological Society* released a report entitled, "Crime profiles and conditional release performance of psychopathic and non-psychopathic sexual offenders," authored by Stephen Porter, Leanne ten Brinke and Kevin Wilson of the Department of Psychology, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia (Canada). The authors concluded, "psychopathy is associated with more prolific sexual offending among child molesters and – despite their extensive criminal histories and high recidivism rate– {they have} a great proficiency in persuading parole boards to release them into the community. Specialized education and training in dealing with

psychopathic offenders is urgently needed."

In response to this study, APAI's Vice President of our International Section submitted a letter to the editor published in the *Ottawa Citizen* and the *National Post* on February 9th which stated:

Re: Early release too easy for psychopaths, Feb. 05, 2009

In his article, the study's author contends that National Parole Board members lack the training and necessary skill sets to identify psychopaths who are at risk to re-offend. Quite to the contrary, the Board has an internationally renowned training and development program which all Board members complete. These programs are developed and run in partnership with respected professionals in the criminal justice system, academia, and the private sector to ensure that the Board's decisions are based on the latest knowledge and methodologies available, as well as the most up-to-date evidence-based research on risk assessment and risk management, which includes both psychopathic and sexual offenders. It should also be noted that the study is based on offenders released in 1995-97. Since that time, the National Parole Board has continued to refine and improve on its training program, and advancements have been made in methodologies and risk assessment tools. The safety of the public is the first and foremost consideration in all Board decisions, and statistics clearly show that those individuals released on parole by the Board overwhelmingly succeed in re-integrating themselves into society as law-abiding citizens. This is what makes Canada's parole system internationally renowned, and attracts delegations from countries around the world eager to study and learn from us.

Renée Collette, Executive Vice Chairperson, National Parole Board

Annual Training Conference, Newport, Rhode Island – Lisa Holley

Below is a **tentative** list of our workshop offerings for the conference. As we confirm speakers, and times, we will share this information with you.

MONDAY

7:45 Registration

8:30 Opening Ceremonies- Conference Welcome

9:00-10:00 Keynote Address

GENERAL SESSION

NIC Parole Framework

Mike Guevara, NIC, EBP, Richard Stroker, CEPP, Parole Papers

Beth Oxford, GA BPAP, Parole 2020, Betty Gurnell, DACUM

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

Mike Guevara EBP

Stanley Adelman , Legal Issues for Parole

FBI Behavioral Science Unit, Profiling

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

Andres Idaraga & Peter Slom, Second Chances: Offenders Succeeding
Richard Stroker, NIC Parole Papers
Pat Cushwa and Maureen Beull NIC, Gender Issues

TUESDAY

GENERAL SESSION

MENTAL HEALTH...NIC Live Satellite Telecast

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

Beth Oxford/Danny Hunter Parole 2020
Kermit Humphreys, Cyndi Mausser, Ed Rhine, REENTRY
David D'Amora SEX OFFENDERS

12:15 to 1:30 Lunch on your own...Or GRAB N GO, sponsored by Spectrum Health

CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

Betty Gurnell, DACUM
Family Justice, "La Botega" New York City
Victims Issues in Parole

GENERAL SESSION

INTERNATIONAL Perspectives on Parole

IN THE NEWS – From the Council of State Governments Justice Centers

February 14, 2009

Stimulus Includes \$4 Billion for Criminal Justice

On Friday, the United States Senate and House of Representatives passed the conference report on H.R. 1, [The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#) The bill now heads to the President's desk for his signature. The stimulus bill will provide almost \$4 billion for criminal justice programs, including:

- \$2 billion for the Department of Justice's [Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant \(JAG\) Program](#), which provides grants to states and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime and to improve the criminal justice system. Byrne JAG funds, which are allocated on the basis of a formula, can be used to support a wide variety of purposes, including corrections and community corrections, drug treatment, and prevention and education programs. The stimulus bill provides an additional \$225 million for competitive grants to state and local law enforcement to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system, to assist victims of crime, and youth mentoring grants.

- \$1 billion for the Department of Justice's [Community Oriented Policing Services \(COPS\) Program](#), which awards grants to tribal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to hire and train community policing professionals, acquire and deploy cutting-edge crime-fighting technologies, and develop and test innovative policing strategies. The stimulus bill waives the standard 25% local match requirement and \$75,000 per officer salary cap.

The bill also provides \$225 million for Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs, \$225 million for assistance to Indian Tribes, \$125 million for assistance to rural law enforcement, \$100 million for crime victims programs, \$50 million to fight Internet crimes against children, and \$40 million to address drug crime along the Southern border.

The Conference Report is available by clicking [here](#), and the provisions pertaining to the Department of Justice appear on pages 39-42.

Editor's Note

We want this newsletter to enhance communications among our membership. Do you have a topic, discussion item or newsworthy story for the next issue? Submit your ideas for the next issue by Friday March 6, 2009:

http://www.apaintl.org/en/ab_suggestion_form.html