



Association of Paroling Authorities International

First Friday - October 3, 2008

Welcome to APAI's monthly online E-forum newsletter, *First Friday*. 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/October2008.pdf>

Calendar of Events and Upcoming Deadlines

Tues Nov 4 U.S. and U.S. Don't Forget to Vote!
Territories
Presidential
Election

Sat, Nov 8 New Zealand Parliamentary
Election Don't Forget to Vote!

Thurs, Nov 20 APAI Northeast Regional Meeting,
Newport RI Interested in Attending? FYI@APAINTL.org

Sat, Apr 19-
Wed, Apr 22,
2009 SAVE THE DATES!
25th Annual
Training
Conference,
Newport RI http://www.apaintl.org/en/tr_atc09.html

The President's Gavel

Dear Members,

September was a busy month for APAI's Executive Committee. We met to create a Business Plan for our future. The first, a 2-day session, was held in Chicago immediately preceding the Chairs' Meeting, and the second, a 2.5-day session, was held in Charlotte. The Plan's focus is growth and sustainability. We created, with input from those in attendance at the Chairs' Meeting, the following mission:

*The Association of Paroling Authorities International is a global association dedicated to the accomplishment of

public safety and successful reentry through training, education, standards of evidence-based research and best practices, providing peer-based technical assistance and support in collaboration with strategic partners.*
- Adopted by APAI Executive Committee: Sept 25, 2008

>From the mission, the discussions focused on how APAI can serve, alongside our strategic partners, the larger community with a vested interest in public safety. Notes from that discussion are being formulated into the creation of the Plan. We hope to have the Plan available for you in next month's issue of First Friday.

We are grateful for the financial and technical support of the National Institute of Corrections (NIC), represented at our meetings by George Keiser and Carla Smalls. NIC made it possible for Tony Thompson to facilitate at both sessions. In addition to being an attorney, Mr. Thompson has a wealth of knowledge about criminal justice, and he is an author, a college professor, an international consultant for organizations wishing to focus on issues that can enhance their stature. APAI Executive Committee was fortunate to have such a well-qualified individual to help move us forward. We are truly grateful for NIC's support and belief in APAI.

On another note, and toward our goal, the holiday season is around the corner. Please join your APAI colleagues with gifts of charitable donations to APAI. It's a way to help APAI achieve sustainability, further our mission, and give gifts that will make a difference.

With best personal regards,
Charles M. Traughber
President

Survey Update and New Document Now Available

The 2007-2008 International Survey of Paroling and Releasing Authorities has released an Executive Summary and Key Findings document. This 6-page document was sent to key international elected and appointed officials. In addition, multiple copies have been mailed to each Chair.

Please consider sending the link to key decision makers in your jurisdictions. The document may be downloaded from our website: http://www.apaintl.org/en/aw_surveys.html

Members may request a hard copy to keep on file or send to local contacts or programs by contacting Audrey@APAINTL.org

APAI gratefully acknowledges the Public Safety Performance Project of the Pew Center on the States and the JEHT Foundation for funding support of this work.

Audio Conferences

APAI is in the process of establishing our Audio Conference programs for this fiscal year. Please send your topic and speaker ideas to us c/o http://www.apaintl.org/en/ab_suggestion_form.html

2009 Dues Alert

We are pleased to inform you that APAI's Executive Committee voted against an increase in our dues structure for 2009. Therefore, your 2009 Calendar Year Dues will remain the same as last year. Invoices will be mailed later this month.

NIC Call for Expertise in Curriculum Development

NIC has awarded a Cooperative Agreement to Betty Gurnell and Associates to develop a new, contemporary curriculum for parole board/releasing authority training. The initial stages of the needs assessment process of this 12-month initiative will take place over the next few months. APAI has been asked to provide expert advice and counsel in several areas which will require varying amounts of input and testing.

APAI and NIC have compiled a preliminary list of potential participants. In addition, we are seeking self nominations from members who are willing to be interviewed by phone for approximately 45 - 60 minutes, as well as individuals who are willing to commit to participating in an online panel discussion of parole board member duties and tasks. The latter requires Internet access, a phone line and a moderate level of computer skills.

If you have a strong interest in the outcomes of this initiative, please respond by Friday, October 10 with your interest, your years of experience on a parole board or releasing authority, and complete contact information by email to: Gurnellfc@aol.com.

Highlight on APAI Resource

APAI's Knowledge Center, a searchable database of member knowledge and jurisdictional operations, is driven by you, our members. View what is being asked and read the responses as they are posted. To participate or search for information, send us your question and we will send it to the jurisdictions for you, then post it on your own right on the site. Alternatively, you may post your own questions directly.

The Knowledge Center is available to members' only by clicking on the Blue Section of our website: <http://www.apaintl.org>. If you have never entered the Members' Only section, your default password is: password. You may change it once you enter, or contact us for assistance from the site or c/o Audrey@APAINTL.org.

News from the States

We have been informed in a News Alert by our friends at CSG's Consensus Project, which is coordinated by the Justice Center, that the U.S. Senate last week passed the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Reauthorization and Improvement Act, S. 2304. The Act allocates refunding of the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA) and expands the training for law enforcement to identify and respond to the individuals identified with mental illness. To learn more, visit <http://www.opencongress.org/bill/110-s2304/show>

Lasting Words

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, October 31, 2008: http://www.apaintl.org/en/ab_suggestion_form.html