



ASSOCIATION OF PAROLING AUTHORITIES INTERNATIONAL

APRIL 2011

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

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THINGS TO DO IN 2011

- **Renew APAI Membership**
- **Attend the Annual Training Conference, May 15-18, 2011, San Antonio, Texas**
- **Serve on an APAI Committee**
- **Convince a colleague to join APAI**

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

The 27th Annual Training Conference in beautiful San Antonio, Texas, is just a few short weeks away. The Executive Committee is preparing to honor some very deserving colleagues in the field of parole and community corrections with our traditional awards. The membership will once again have the opportunity to elect new APAI officers. It will be so great to see all my friends from around the nation and the world at this event.

This year's training program will once again have something for everyone. This year's theme is *Collaborations and Partnerships: The Keys to Success*. You will find more about the training program elsewhere in this Newsletter and on the APAI website. However, I am particularly excited about our Keynote Address from our friend and colleague Anne Seymour, nationally recognized crime victim's advocate

There will be many concurrent workshops to choose from that will allow participants to tailor their conference experience to their specific needs. This great program content is made possible by the generosity of the National Institute of Corrections, the Pew Center on the States and the many member presenters who volunteer their time to share their experience with their colleagues. A heartfelt thank you goes to all of them.

International Section Vice

President Renee Collette has once again done an excellent job of garnering support for the conference across the world. We can all learn so much from this section of our organization. This year she has arranged an extraordinary speaker for the "International Perspectives" General Session. Sir David Latham, Chair of the Parole Board of England and Wales, will share his perspective on the practice of parole in a system that has faced and overcome some very challenging times.

Of equal importance will be the opportunity to learn and network that exists because of our Regional and Sectional meetings. On Sunday afternoon May 15, the Council of Paroling/Releasing Authorities will meet. This group is made up of the Chief Officer or Chair of the Paroling/Releasing Authority members of the organization and advises the Executive Committee on matters affecting the Association.

All members of the Association are assigned to a Region or Section based upon their geographic location. The Regional and Sectional meetings are scheduled for later Sunday afternoon. These sessions, led by your Regional and Sectional Vice Presidents, will provide an opportunity to share information and ideas about the issues that we all encounter in our work.

Do not forget that revenues raised from the Conference help support the work of APAI

throughout the year. The Host Committee, under the leadership of Texas Chair Rissie Owen, has done a phenomenal job of lining up sponsors for the various conference events and exhibitors for our exhibit hall. This promises to make this year's conference not only an especially entertaining one, but a very profitable one. Be sure to visit with our exhibitors and thank our sponsors.

I can not close this message without thanking my dear friend and colleague Garland Hunt of Georgia for his years of service to APAI including his service the last two years as Vice President. Garland has chosen not to seek another term as Vice President and has moved on from his service to the Georgia Board of Pardons and Parole. His advice and counsel has been invaluable to me throughout my presidency and his camaraderie will be missed. Thank you Garland.

Hope to see you in San Antonio,

Warm regards,

Charles Traughber
President, Association of Paroling
Authorities International

2011 APAI ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

It is not too late to register for the 27th APAI Annual Training conference to be held in beautiful and historic San Antonio, Texas May 15- 18, 2011. It will be held at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio located on the exciting Riverwalk.

Take a leisurely stroll down this unique avenue and enjoy the fantastic restaurants, shops, galleries and nightlife. We are just a couple of blocks from the Alamo and the Tower of the Americas. Sea World San Antonio is nearby.

The theme of this year's conference is *Collaborations and Partnerships: The Keys to Success*. As always this year's conference will begin with a meeting of the Council of Paroling Releasing Authorities (COPRA) on Sunday afternoon followed by Regional and Sections meetings.

Also, back by popular demand will be a meeting for Parole Executives and other key staff. Representatives from the National Institute of Corrections will be with us to discuss the upcoming Parole Executives Training and begin the work of developing a curriculum. This will be an excellent opportunity to get in on the ground floor of this project.

The program portion of the agenda will begin Monday morning with opening ceremonies and a Keynote Address from Anne Seymour, national crime victim's advocate. We will also hear from Peggy Burke and others about the important work being done by the National Parole Resource Center.

Representatives from Carleton University in Canada will be on hand to unveil some new and exciting work sponsored by NIC that will

advance the field of parole and conditional release in the area of quality assurance and standardized performance measures.

Numerous concurrent workshops will be presented on topics such as the newly developed Parole Chairs Training and the collaboration principles recently developed by APAI and the Association of State Corrections Administrators (ASCA).

Representative will be on hand from the Interstate Commission on Adult Offender Supervision do discuss recent changes in the compact and a representative from The National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center will talk about the most recent advances in technology for use in parole and parole supervision.

Numerous APAI member organizations will be on hand to present information about projects and programs that are working in their jurisdiction.

This programming is specifically designed to give the practitioner the tools to survive in today's world of tight resources and ever increasing expectations. To find out more about his conference go to www.apaintl.org and click on the Conferences and Training Tab. The last day to register at a reduced rate is April 15, and the last day to make hotel reservations at the guaranteed room rate is April 22.

We look forward to seeing you in San Antonio.

LEARNING AND SHARING, BY RENÉE COLLETTE AND CRANSTON MITCHELL

When the Association of Paroling Authorities (APA) was founded in the early seventies, it was meant to be international although the "I" was not in its title. The founding members of the APA were paroling authorities from United States and Canada. We are not sure of the exact date of the founding but we know that George Street, Chairman of the National Parole Board of Canada was the first president elected in 1972.

"International" was added to the Association's title in 1989 to recognize that it was an Association whose membership came from many countries. The growing interest in parole and the

association can be measured by the numerous requests for information that both the member boards and the Association have received over the years.

There is a growing need to develop a repository of information and data involving parole in all member countries. Over time, more than 38 countries have come to our annual conference, which reflects a growing thirst for knowledge.

Why is it important to be international?

Our vision is that "APAI is the recognized voice for the highest professional standard of responsible

parole practices". And, for release authorities worldwide, APAI is the only international organization which brings together parole/releasing decision-makers from various countries.

The ability to dialogue and learn from each other experiences and effective strategies is invaluable. As paroling authorities, we have different laws and policies governing the application of parole, but we share a common belief that offenders can change and that reintegration into the community with good quality support from that same community is an important principle.

Making parole decisions is very serious business. These decisions have to be made by competent members who can avail themselves to the best training and professional development possible in order to be able to make independent decisions with the protection of our community as the paramount objective. Quality discretionary decision-making by qualified decision-makers is an essential element to good public safety practice.

The structure of releasing authorises, tribunals and agencies can be different, but the goal should be the same. Making parole decisions is certainly not an

WHAT DO WE WANT FROM THAT DECISION, BY GEORGE KEISER

During the last five years, the NIC staff, building on what had been learned in the previous twenty five, undertook an "Initiative" aimed at being deliberate about articulating what should be the results of the decisions made at the "front end" of the criminal justice system. The goal was to challenge people, in key decision making positions, to articulate the utility or results they wanted from their decisions. Increasingly there is an expectation there should be measurable benefit for the community from these decisions. The decisions are informed by knowledge and data, but they are decisions made by people, people with different educational backgrounds, different life experiences and different motivations. This is the articulation of "local public policy."

Paroling Authorities have a similar opportunity, or some would suggest obligation, to articulate what they intend to accomplish through their

decisions. Merely claiming "public safety" or "respect for victims" without some measurable, behavioral description of what those terms mean and are intended to produce is no longer sufficient. For some this measure of relevance has become "fewer new crimes and fewer new victims" committed by persons under their jurisdiction. For others it is expressed in a positive form, "more successful completions" of parole, defined and measured in behaviors that are valued by the publics they encounter. For the families brutalized by domestic violence, it means reducing the likelihood of future physical violence. For other families, it means seeing child support payments where none have been made in the past. Yet for others it means having a family member back clean and sober with reason to believe they will stay that way.

Given the variety of ways Paroling Authorities are structured, it is important that they have a set of principles and framework which they can tailor to their specific state. NIC has articulated in their Transition from Prison to Community Initiative (TPC) just such a set of principles and an adaptable framework which many states have used either as a participant in the Initiative or on their own. With assistance from NIC and the Center for Effective Public Policy, states as diverse in geography, culture and organizational structure as Tennessee, Iowa and Wyoming are demonstrating their own models of implementing Evidence-Based Policy and Practice.

While no Paroling Authority can guarantee there will never be a case gone bad, these jurisdictions now have defensible strategies for delivering deliberate benefit as measured in terms understood by the tax payer. They are able to know what

level and what type of risk is represented by the person facing them. They also have data before them that suggests how to most effectively work with them to reduce that risk as the person returns to the community. In the current economic and political climate we can afford to do no less. Producing fewer new crimes and fewer new victims is the ultimate "public safety."

(Go to nicic.gov and search for Transition or Reentry for more information on TPC.)

George Keiser worked 15 years in the Iowa Corrections system. He was the principal architect of the unique governing structure of Iowa's Community Corrections System. George spent the last 28 years as the Chief of the National Institute of Corrections, Community Corrections Division. He is now the CEO of Keiser and Associates, LLC, providing public policy organizational development consultation.

Pictures from beautiful San Antonio, Texas



easy task. As parole decision-makers, we are asked to assess all relevant, reliable and persuasive information including the results of expert evaluations and sometimes contradictory recommendations. We must assess the risk for re-offending and make a decision to grant or deny parole. We are asked to predict the future

We all agree that reintegrating offenders back into society poses some unique challenges and risks. But by applying sound policies and utilizing the proven evidence of what works, we can be successful. Over the past decades, the spotlight has been directed more and more on criminal justice matters, more specifically, on corrections and community supervision. Thus, APAI represents our opportunity for us to take

advantage of the wealth of knowledge that is available and learn from each other.

We live in a world of instant information which in itself presents a challenge. Human behaviour is not 100% predictable. Life is not either.

Being international, gives us the opportunity to

- ◆ expand our vision and knowledge beyond the borders of each others jurisdictions
- ◆ have meaningful conversations, by the sharing of our respective experiences, struggles, challenges and successes
- ◆ share research findings and the results of our activities
- ◆ learn from different approaches and cultures
- ◆ enhance our decision making and in so doing,

enhance reintegration of offenders and community safety

The challenges in the field of criminal justice are many and as we have discovered from other disciplines, having a global response and an appreciation of our international partners and the environment in which they work makes sense. Sharing and learning about experiences, methods and approaches broaden the knowledge base from which new ideas may emerge.

As an Association it is important that we think internationally and find ways to be as inclusive as possible in order to support the establishment of sound parole systems.



[APAI has a BLOG!!!](#)

Make sure and check out the APAI Blog with up-to-date articles and news from around the world!

www.apaintl.blogspot.com

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