



# ASSOCIATION OF PAROLING AUTHORITIES INTERNATIONAL

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## 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
- Run for APAI Office
- Serve on an APAI Committee
- Contribute to the APAI Blog

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Another year has come and gone. We at APAI are hard at work to make 2011 a banner year for our profession and our association as we seek to advance the practice of parole and conditional release throughout the world by increasing the professionalism of those of us who carry out this important work

If you have not already done so it is time for many of you to renew your membership. Membership reminders have gone out to those whose membership is about to expire and membership forms are available on line at [www.apaintl.org](http://www.apaintl.org). This issue of the APAI Newsletter is devoted to reminding everyone of the great value that comes from membership in a professional association such as APAI. Please pass it along to any allied agency or institution that may have an interest in our work.

APAI staff and APAI members from the Texas Board of Pardons and Parole, under the leadership of Chair Rissie Owens, are hard at work planning this year's Annual Training Conference to be held on the Riverwalk in beautiful San Antonio, Texas. The dates of the conference are May 15 -18, 2011. The theme of this year's conference is **Collaborations and Partnerships: The Keys to Success.**

I urge everyone to attend and take advantage to the excellent training opportunities that will be available there. Also, remember the many valuable meetings that take place there. The Regional

and Sectional meetings, under the leadership of our Regional and Sectional Vice Presidents offer an excellent opportunity to network and learn about what is occurring in other jurisdictions around you.

The Council of Paroling and Releasing Authorities (COPRA) plays a critical role is setting the course for APAI. This group will meet under the guidance of COPRA Chair Rissie Owens.

These meetings will take place on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. Back by popular demand is the Executive Director/Board Administrator meeting that will take place also on Sunday to give those key agency personnel the opportunity learn from their peers. As you can see, there will be something for everyone in San Antonio. .

This years Chair's meeting will be held in Boise, Idaho, September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Olivia Craven and her colleagues from The Idaho Commission of Pardons and Parole for agreeing to host this event.

APAI committees will be hard at work this year. The Professional Development Committee under the leadership of Richard Dugger of Oklahoma will be working to make sure that we all have relevant and high quality professional development opportunities. The Standards Committee, headed by Gale Buckner of Georgia, will be working to update and formalize the APAI work on the essential elements of parole and release practice.

The newly formed Crime Victims Committee, chaired by Barbara Lemaitre of Wyoming, will work to ensure that this very important stake holder group has their voices heard. And finally the Membership Committee under the dynamic leadership of Jeri Costa of Washington State will be seeking ways to expand the membership of APAI and improve the service we provide.

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered their time and energy to serve on these committees. This association could not function without these dedicated professionals.

Speaking of dedicated professionals, I can not end this letter without paying tribute to our friend and colleague George Keiser who is retiring from the National Institute of Corrections after many years of dedicated service to the field of parole and community corrections.

George, we understand you will be entering the world of private consulting. You worked tirelessly to improve our profession and have been a true friend and supporter of APAI. We will miss your presence at NIC but we hope to cross paths with you frequently as you continue your contribution through your consulting work.

Hope to see you in San Antonio.  
Warm Regards,

Charles Traugher  
President, Association of Paroling  
Authorities International

## TRAINING CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE CRITICAL, BY CAROLINE MUDD, KENTUCKY PAROLE BOARD, APAI SOUTHERN REGION VICE PRESIDENT

The Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI) Annual Training Conference provides a wealth of opportunities for learning, networking and gaining a better perspective on the issues paroling authorities face on a daily basis.

For many release decision makers, it is the only source of training available to assist in broadening the knowledge base for parole board chairs, members and staff, both old and new. As a result of the transitory nature of the majority of board and releasing authority members, not only in the United States but worldwide, it is critically important to have an association such as APAI,

dedicated to the mission of providing quality training.

For these reasons, the Kentucky Parole Board makes it a priority to have representation at the APAI Annual Training Conference. Since 1998, the Kentucky Parole Board has had at least one member in attendance.

At the 2010 training conference in Savannah, Georgia the Kentucky Parole Board had the highest number of attendees of all agencies represented. In addition to board members, our Executive Director and two staff members were in attendance.

Kentucky has recently hosted

both the Annual Training Conference (2008) and the Chairs Meeting (2010), in Louisville, Kentucky. At the 2008 conference, records were set with the highest attendance as well as the highest amount of money raised at our silent auction.

"Kentucky is well rooted in the APAI tradition" states Verman Winburn, the current Chair of the Kentucky Parole Board. "It enables us to strengthen our parole process by utilizing evidence-based practices as well as other tools made available to our board members." Chairman Winburn's ownership in APAI was evident when he personally funded two of his trips to

APAI conferences, once in 2004 and again in 2009.

It is in difficult financial times like these, when budgets are stretched thin, that we need to think outside the box and create new solutions to old problems. What a better way to do that than to attend the 2011 APAI Annual Training Conference in San Antonio, Texas, May 15 -18.

This will provide the opportunity for all to learn and network with other professionals who are dedicated to improving the parole decision making process.

I hope to see you there!

## WHY BELONG TO APAI, BY KEITH HARDISON, APAI CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

In a May 2010 article appearing in the American Correctional Association's on line newsletter, Susan L. Clayton, managing editor of that publication discussed the many reasons why membership in a professional organization such as ACA is an asset particularly in tough economic times. Drawing on a presentation at the 2010 Winter ACA conference by Bob May Associate Director of one of our sister associations, the Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA), she explained how the technical expertise, training research and other resources of a professional association help practitioner do their jobs better.

Those in attendance at the ACA Winter conference where told how ASCA helps Corrections Directors share their knowledge with each other and find solutions to

their problems quickly and without added expense. May recounted for the attendees the many services that ASCA provides for the new and seasoned Corrections Directors.

The reasons for maintaining memberships in ACA or ASCA are equally applicable to APAI. Quite simply we help Parole Board members and Releasing Authority personnel do their jobs better.

Lean economic time demand creativity. We are all being asked to deal with lay offs and furloughs and many other financial constraints. At the same time Parole Boards and Releasing Authorities are being asked to, and in many cases mandated to, participate in initiatives designed to reduce burgeoning prison population which are in many instances a major contributor to a

states fiscal crisis.

Boards and Releasing Authorities are under increased scrutiny from legislators, chief executives and other key stakeholders. They want information, particularly performance based information, immediately and often. And most of all they want, in fact they demand, that this all be done without jeopardizing public safety.

This is all enough to make even the most seasoned among us experience frustration and anxiety. However we at APAI recognize that because of the transient nature of the personnel that do our work, these frustrations and this anxiety is much worse than it may be in other areas of corrections.

Many practitioners come into our field of work with very

little if any relevant training or background. As Chairman David Blumberg of Maryland often says, he knows of no one who goes off to college majoring in being a parole board member. Most who find themselves in a position of having to make parole release and revocation decision find themselves having to learn and adapt very quickly.

That is where APAI comes in. We have long been an advocate of quality training for parole board and releasing authority members and personnel. We have recently worked hand in hand with our colleagues at the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) to develop relevant and highly effective curricula for new board members and new Chairs. We will no doubt participate in a similar capacity when training is developed for key parole board staff. We have

## NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SECTION, BY RENEE COLLETTE, APAI INTERNATIONAL SECTION VICE PRESIDENT

In this issue, I will bring you news and contributions from two of our very active international members, the Bermuda Parole Board and the Correctional Service of Hong Kong. I have asked each of them to share their thoughts about the importance of APAI membership and attendance at APAI training conferences.

First, I would like to mention that Dame Jennifer Smith who has been the Chairperson of the Bermuda Parole Board since 2007 has been appointed as the Minister of Education of Bermuda and has stepped down from the Board. On behalf of APAI, I congratulate her and thank her for her strong contribution to our field and commitment to our Association.

Her former colleagues at the Parole Board want to publicly thank her for her leadership. Colleague Jeremy Lodge specifically recognized her "inspirational leadership" while Board Member Cromwell Sakir states that she has "elevated the bar very high." Colleague Williams Francis remarks that "her impact and inspiration to all on the Board was very great" and Rev. Clark Minors points out that the Board is respected and recognized in the community thanks to her.

We wish her all the best in this new challenge.

Mr. Cromwell Sakir, a long time member of the Bermuda Parole Board and a faithful member of APAI for many

years has been appointed Senator of Bermuda and Junior Minister for Health and Works. Congratulations and good luck.

The Hon. Wayne Perinchief has replaced Dame Jennifer Smith as the Parole Board Chairman. Congratulations and welcome Mr. Perinchief.

Dame Smith was asked to make a parting contribution to our Newsletter by telling us why she feels so strongly about coming to the APAI Annual Conferences and bring her colleagues from the Board and Bermuda Corrections with her. Member Jeremy Lodge contributed as well.

*I joined the Bermuda Parole Board as its Chair in 2007 -*

*and thus began one of the most fulfilling chapters of my life.*

*When I came on the Board, I found a group of passionate, involved people, each of whom brought a different perspective to our deliberations. There was the Psychologist, the former Magistrate, the Muslim community activist and a Social Worker. The Social Worker was replaced with a former Policeman/Pastor in 2008. I began with the Parole Board in January and by March of that year, learned that the Chair, Deputy Chair and the Administrator attended the Association of Paroling Authorities International Conference, which was being held*

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## WHY BELONG TO APAI, CONT.

advocated for this training to be provided early and often and will continue to do so.

In addition APAI has long been known for providing top notch continuing training for Board members through its annual training conference. Last year top experts in the field of Corrections such as Steve Aos and Dr. Ed Latessa enlightened us with their amazing research that continues to make us look differently at the way we do business.

APAI's information sharing capabilities are alone well worth the cost of membership. Through a state of the art website that contains many years worth of surveys and training conference presentations as well as many audio training presentations and the newly created APAI Blog, the practitioner has available at

their fingertips the latest information about what is happening across the United States and even the world in our field.

And along with that comes the wealth of information that exists on the website maintained by the National Parole Resource Center (NPRC). This is an exciting new project brought to you by a partnership of APAI and the Center for Effective Public Policy, funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and which includes many well respected allied agencies.

One of APAI's most valuable assets is its list serves. Through the use of this resource APAI members and member organizations have direct electronic access to all of the other members and organizations to ask questions, seek information and share successes and

lessons learned from their work.

Members of APAI now have the resources of the Correctional Management Institute of Texas (CMIT) the association's new Secretariat at their fingertips. I stand ready as the association's Chief Administrative Officer to share my 30 plus years of experience in this field with the membership.

We believe that bringing people together to have a mutual discussion about what they are doing is critical to doing the work our members are called upon to do. Each year APAI holds a meeting of Parole Board Chairs and Releasing Authority Directors from across the country and around the globe for a mixture of training and facilitated peer interaction. Each year parole

practitioners with hundreds of years of experience comes together to share their vast knowledge with their colleagues.

With so much available it is hard to imagine how a Parole Board or Releasing Authority could be expected to function at even a rudimentary level, much less meet all the increased demands that are being placed upon it, without taking advantage of the resources available to it for the mere cost of an APAI membership. As the new year begins please take this opportunity to renew your membership to APAI, join if you have not already done so and encourage your colleagues and allied agencies to join and take advantage of all APAI has to offer.

## NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SECTION, CONT.

in April. My first attendance at the APAI Conference was eye-opening, invigorating, educational and inspirational. I met Renee Collette and lots of interesting people who shared a common interest and concern.

It was exhilarating – and on the spot – I determined that from then on, the entire Board would attend for development and training. The Administrator was instructed to put the necessary funding into the Budget and thus began the experience of the entire Bermuda Board of five, along with our partners from the Department of Corrections and the Department of Court Services (who offer oversight of parolees) attending the APAI Conference.

The very first time that all of our Members attended, they understood the importance of APAI. Prior to the Conference, we had been labouring alone in our vineyard – reading books, searching out information, but with no opportunity to talk to others involved; people facing similar questions, situations and circumstances.

Each year upon our return, we hold a Conference review where each Member (having usually attended different workshops) informs their colleagues about the workshop – and offer any recommendations that may be applicable. Each year, we

have learned, gained experience and improved our local procedures and methodology as a result.

Members have taken particular notes of the following topics and have incorporated most into our annual objectives:

1. Board mission statement/philosophy.
2. Motivational interviewing as a Parole Board tool.
3. Victim impact and using victim interviews to enhance community acceptance of parolees.
4. Measuring Parole Board characteristics and effectiveness.

The need to learn from our colleagues abroad and to benchmark our services against those of more established nations should ensure our ongoing participation in APAI.

Rev. Clark Minors was also asked to share his thoughts about APAI training conference attendance. Here is what he had to say.

As the newest member of the Bermuda Parole Board, the APAI Training opportunities have assisted me tremendously in several areas. Having a former inmate who is now a Parole Officer (the Rhode Island Conference) give testimony to the fact that people can and do change was very enlightening. As a retired Police In-

spector, that was very helpful to me as I underwent a paradigm shift in my thinking about those persons who had committed very serious crimes and who were eligible for parole and re-entry into the community to serve out their sentence.

I was able based upon information received at the Savannah Conference, to suggest that the Bermuda Parole Board open the door to families of victims to have their say to the Parole Board during the parole consideration hearing process. That is now a part of our process.”

Our friends and colleagues at the Correctional Service of Hong Kong have been APAI members and participants in our Annual Training Conferences for many years now and were asked to explain why.

The vision of the Hong Kong Correctional Services Department is to be an internationally acclaimed Correctional Service agency helping Hong Kong to be one of the safest cities in the world. Participation in internationally recognized conferences is one of the means to achieve this goal.

Assistant Commissioner (Rehabilitation) Mr. LEE Sheung, Principal Officer Ms. LEUNG Yuet-han, Officer Mr. TAM Chi-him and Officer Mr. LI Chi-wah participated in the

26th Annual Training Conference of the Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI) held in Savannah Georgia. It was the eleventh time for the Department has sent delegates to attend the Conference. Our delegates were the sole Chinese representatives present at the Conference.

Different countries may have different parole legislation and policies, but APAI brings together decision-makers and practitioners in the field of parole with a view to enhancing and improving their practices. The program for the 4-day event consisted of a series of presentations and workshops on the latest research and best practices in corrections in general and parole in particular.

During the conference, our delegates had the chance to introduce the early release schemes in Hong Kong to the delegates from various countries or regions. The Conference offered a unique opportunity for participants to meet, interact, and exchange ideas with their counterparts around the world. Such professional networking is greatly beneficial to our Department in achieving its vision.

We at APAI are truly humbled by and appreciative of the loyalty and dedication of our international colleagues and members.

[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](http://www.apaintl.blogspot.com)



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