



# ASSOCIATION OF PAROLING AUTHORITIES INTERNATIONAL

JULY 2013

## FROM THE PRESIDENT:

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Dear Friends and Colleagues in APAI,

It seems only yesterday we concluded our Annual Training Conference (ATC) in Providence, Rhode Island. We are left with memories of vibrant and interesting presentations and discussions. For myself, and I am confident for you, also, friendships were renewed and new ones formed as we continue to enrich each other's professional lives in the pursuit of practices that are evidence-based.

Many thanks to the host committee from the Rhode Island Parole Board and the Rhode Island Department of Corrections for their hard work and gracious hospitality in Providence. Our conferences would not be possible without the hard work of our local member host committees.

Planning is under way for our 2014 ATC in Denver, Colorado, which I know you will not want to miss. It's never too early to begin thinking about attending and contributing by contacting your Regional Vice President with topics of interest.

APAI's Executive Committee (EC) continues to focus on our standing committee structure as the key operating component of our Strategic Business Plan. The EC encourages you to seek out an APAI committee of interest and become involved in order to realize the goals we've set.

An election for APAI Vice President and Secretary concluded during the ATC. Rissie Owens, Chair of the Texas Board of Pardons and Parole, was elected Vice President, continuing in the position to which she was appointed last year at this time. Dan

Fetsco, currently, Deputy Director of the Wyoming Board of Parole, was elected as our new Secretary.

As announced at the ATC, effective July 1, 2013, APAI's Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) position will be split into two positions. The newly created position will be the Chief Program Officer (CPO). The restructuring was initiated with the full support of our current and exemplary CAO, Keith Hardison, and we promptly hired past, two-term APAI Secretary, Jeri Costa, to fill this new position. The resulting two positions will equally divide the current CAO salary.

I will conclude my quarterly letter with a tribute to the longest serving parole chair in U.S. history and Immediate Past President of APAI, Charles Traughber. Chairman Traughber retired effective June 30, 2013, after 43 years, seven months of public service within our field of criminal justice. He was appropriately applauded and recognized by the great State of Tennessee and, on behalf of APAI and myself, personally, I want to thank Chairman Traughber for his service and commitment.

Charles, we will miss you!

Sincerely,

Jeffrey L. Peterson  
President, APAI

### THINGS TO DO IN 2013

- Renew APAI Membership
- Serve on an APAI Committee
- Convince a colleague to join APAI.
- Make plans to attend the 2014 Chairs Meeting and Annual Training Conference in Denver, CO May 18-21, 2014

## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL APAI ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

BY: KEITH HARDISON

Another APAI Annual Training Conference (ATC) is in the books. Many thanks to the members and staff of the Rhode Island Parole Board and the Rhode Island Department of Corrections for the many hours of planning and preparation that went into hosting this year's conference.

The ATC began with a well-attended Annual Chairs Meeting on Sunday, May 19. In years past, this meeting has been conducted separately in the fall. However, because of the travel restrictions many agencies are facing it was moved to the Sunday preceding the conference. This was obviously a good decision as attendance was improved over the past several years. There were 28 chairs in attendance with four coming from the international community.

The meeting was facilitated by APAI's own Jeri Costa and attendees were briefed on and provided feedback about the proposed APAI New Chairs Mentoring Program. The attendees also learned about the soon to be released APAI Resource Map and were provided with historical information about APAI as a prelude to a session in which the chairs were asked to provide guidance about the future of APAI. The meeting culminated with a rousing and informative presentation about the emerging issues in parole by Dr. Renée Gobeil of Canada.

On Sunday night, the conference attendees had the chance to mix and mingle with their colleagues at the traditional Welcome Reception. Old acquaintances were renewed and new friends were made.

The conference officially kicked off with the Opening Ceremony on Monday Morning. We were welcomed by local officials and were treated to the pomp and circumstances of the Rhode Island State Police Color Guard and the Providence Police Department Pipe and Drums. Rhode Island Department of Corrections Director A. T. Wall provided the Keynote Address. The day culminated with a wonderful reception in the historic Rhode Island Statehouse, a truly elegant piece of early American architecture.

The programming at this year's conference was again second to none. General sessions dealt with issues such as ethics and imposing conditions grounded in evidence-based practices. Peggy Burke and crew from

the National Parole Resource Center (NPRC) were on hand to update participants on the work accomplished by the four NPRC learning sites and Justice Warwick Gendall from New Zealand gave us an overview of the Parole Board of New Zealand and his journey from prosecutor to judge to parole board chair.

Victim's issues were definitely a common theme running through the conference workshops. Jeri Costa again dealt with the issue of how we balance offender rights with those of the victims. Speakers from the Irish Parole Board were also on hand to discuss how they deal with this issue in their country and local officials presented what they are doing to confront the emerging issue of human trafficking. There was a workshop on new technologies in parole and one that addressed basic use of social media. Our colleagues from Canada presented on the use of aboriginal elders in their parole process and use of structured decision making to improve decision making.

A panel of practitioners was on hand to discuss the challenges of establishing or reforming a parole system and the U.S. Parole Commission shared their experiences with their new program to reduce technical parole violator returns to prison.

At the Tuesday Awards Luncheon accolades were bestowed upon those in the field who have contributed in extraordinary ways to our profession (more about that elsewhere in this newsletter). At the Wednesday Breakfast and Business Meeting we heard reports from the various APAI committees and ongoing projects. The conference ended with an invitation from the Colorado Parole Board to join them in Denver for the 2014 APAI Annual Training Conference.

And last, but certainly not least, while the proceeds are still being tallied, it appears that the conference was also a financial success with net income above projections. This is critical since the conference proceeds is the major source of APAI revenue. We must thank our many exhibitors and sponsors without whom this conference would not be possible and all those who donated and bid on our silent auction items.

Thanks again to the many people who made this conference possible.

## APAI AWARD RECIPIENTS

BY: KEITH HARDISON

At this year's APAI Annual Training Conference three individuals and one organization were recognized for the service and commitment to the field of parole and community corrections.

**Bridgemark Addiction Recovery Services**, a Rhode Island substance abuse treatment program was given the Community Service Award for significant contributions to the furthering of the rehabilitative efforts of parole. Staff and clients alike were on hand to accept this well-deserved award.

**Renée Collette**, former Executive Vice Chair of the Parole Board of Canada was given the President's Award by APAI President Jeff Peterson. President Peterson recounted Renée's decades of commitment to our organization including service as APAI President and most recently her service as International Section Vice President.

**Jeralita "Jeri" Costa**, former Chair of the Washington State Indeterminate Sentence Review Board, was given

the Vincent O'Leary Award to honor her significant commitment to APAI and her tireless commitment to the field of parole and APAI. Jeri is the outgoing Secretary of APAI and frequent contributor to APAI conferences and trainings.

And in a presentation that brought the house to its feet, **Dr. Kenneth Walker**, Chair of the Rhode Island Parole Board was presented with the Ben Bear Award in recognition of his significant service to the field of parole over his many years on and as chair of the Board in Rhode Island. In a heartwarming recount of Dr. Walker many years of service to parole in Rhode Island, a member of his board shared many accounts of his compassion and his commitment to bring out what is good in his fellow man.

APAI congratulates each of these award recipients. We urge our membership to be on the lookout for members and other individuals who are deserving of nomination for these prestigious awards.

## PAROLE BOARD OF CANADA CONTINUES TO REACH OUT TO VICTIMS— THROUGH VIDEO, BY: MARIE COCKING

The Parole Board of Canada (PBC or the Board) recently launched *Parole Board of Canada: Victim Services*, a video to help victims of crime better understand the conditional release process and their role in it. The PBC, as an independent administrative tribunal, has a history of innovation to support victim participation in the parole process, and the release of this video is one way the Board is reaching out the victims to show them about the Board, how it works and what services are available to them.

The Parole Board of Canada began providing information to victims in the 1980s, as a matter of policy. In fact, before the passage of the Board's enabling legislation, the Corrections and Conditional Release Act, which provided for information-sharing with victims, the Board used the authority of privacy legislation to provide certain information to victims about offenders when it was clearly in the public interest. For more than 20 years, the Board has accepted written statements from victims for consideration in the risk-assessment of offenders, and in 2001, the Board began to allow victims to attend hearings to present their statements. This right was

entrenched in law in Canada in 2012. Today, victims may present their written statements in person, or via audio or video recording.

"The Board tries to be as flexible as we can within the bounds of Canadian law because we believe that a role for victims in the conditional release process contributes to public safety," says Parole Board of Canada Chairperson, Harvey Cenaiko.

The video, produced in-house, shows the basics of how a hearing works, and tells victims about their right to present a statement to the Board, in person or via recording. It outlines what information registered victims may receive from the PBC about an offender and directs victims to other sources of information about conditional release, such as the Board website and toll-free victim information line (1-800-789-4636). Through the medium of video, victims are able to see how a hearing works and so may be reassured and better prepared to attend and present a statement. The video adds to the suite of PBC communications products for victims, such as the Victims: Statement Checklist.

**PAROLE BOARD OF CANADA CONTINUES TO REACH OUT TO VICTIMS—  
THROUGH VIDEO, CONT FROM PAGE 3**

Of interest, the Canadian government is currently consulting on a national Victims' Bill of Rights to provide greater certainty and consistency for victims in their role in the criminal justice system. If passed into legislation, it will likely mean more change for the Board. The Parole Board of Canada works to ensure its practices best support public safety and will implement any changes to the law adopted by the Canadian Parliament.

To view the video, *Parole Board of Canada: Victim Services*, click on the link or visit: [www.pbc-clcc.gc.ca](http://www.pbc-clcc.gc.ca). For more information, about the video contact the Parole Board of Canada at [info@pbc-clcc.gc.ca](mailto:info@pbc-clcc.gc.ca).

The Parole Board of Canada currently has 7,538 active registered victims receiving information about 4,060 offenders. In 2011-12, at the Board there were:

- 21,449 contacts with victims of crime;
- 223 victim statements presented at 140 hearings;
- 2,791 observers at 1,225 hearings; and
- 5,426 decisions sent out under the Decision Registry.

Retired Tennessee Chairman Charles Traugher pictured with current Tennessee governor Bill Haslam and former governor Phil Bredesen at his retirement reception honoring over 40 years of service.



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