



# ASSOCIATION OF PAROLING AUTHORITIES INTERNATIONAL

JULY 2014

## FROM THE PRESIDENT:

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### THINGS TO DO IN 2014

- **Renew APAI Membership**
- **Serve on an APAI Committee**
- **Convince a colleague to join APAI.**
- **Make plans to attend the 2015 Chairs Meeting and Annual Training Conference in Columbus, OH, May 17-20, 2015**

### APAI's New Membership Fees

Individual	\$65
Organizational (up to 8 members)	\$375
Organizational (9 to 13 members)	\$475
Organizational (14 to 20 members)	\$575
Associate	\$40
Student	\$15

Dear APAI Members:

I am so much honored to be assuming the role of President this month, and to be given the opportunity to give back to an association that has given so much to me over the past eight years. As I am sure many of you have experienced, the learning, networking and relationship building opportunities APAI presents are invaluable resources for moving not only our individual boards and authorities, but our profession as a whole, forward. I am very excited to be working with the dedicated Executive Committee and the staff of APAI on further pursuing the Association's goals and strengthening its membership.

This is a very exciting time for the Association as we continue to build on the momentum of a very successful Chairs' meeting and Annual Training Conference held in Denver, Colorado. Many of you indicated that the networking opportunities the ATC provides were among the top benefits of attending. I will do my best to continue to foster the opportunities for you to network and communicate amongst the membership so that those opportunities are not confined to once a year. Our website is currently being restructured to allow for more modern communication methods, and we are excited about the possibilities this will create for the Association's members.

I believe that it is vital to our profession that all practitioners have access to the most current resources so that all jurisdictions are able to implement best practices. I pledge to continue the Association's dedication to providing training opportunities and information sharing to its members.

Through continued education and training, we can demonstrate the effectiveness and necessity of discretionary release decision making in the criminal justice system. We should view ourselves as vehicles to help promote supervision compliance and offender success.

All of you are vital to the success of APAI, and I have found it very rewarding to have had the opportunity to get to know many of you over the

years. I am very much looking forward to meeting and getting to know more of you in my new role. And I want you to feel free to contact me or any of the members of the Executive Committee and let us know how we can best continue to serve you.

Thank you to all of you who are serving on committees and who have volunteered to become new members of our standing committees. I look forward to the progress you will undoubtedly make.

I would also like to thank and extend my most heartfelt gratitude to outgoing APAI President, Jeffrey Peterson for not only his mentorship since I became active in APAI eight years ago, but for his friendship and enthusiastic support. He has demonstrated a fierce commitment to our profession. He has led the Association with strength and grace, and always with the utmost professionalism. We are all fortunate that he will continue to be a part of the Executive Committee and will continue to guide us as we pursue fulfilling the goals of APAI.

Finally, I am looking forward to seeing all of you here in Columbus, Ohio for the 2015 Chairs' meeting and Annual Training Conference. The Host Committee is already working hard to provide you with an exciting and innovative conference experience. Until then, the best to all of you!!

Sincerely,

Cynthia Mausser  
 Association of Paroling Authorities International  
 President-Elect

Ohio Parole Board Chair

## APAI 2014 AWARD RECIPIENTS

BY: KEITH HARDISON

At this year's APAI Annual Training Conference in Denver four individuals were recognized for their service and commitment to the field of parole and community corrections. The Awards Luncheon, during which these honors are announced, is the highlight of the conference and an opportunity to recognize those who have distinguished themselves in our profession.

### President's Award

Each year, the President of APAI presents this award to an active APAI member who has made a significant contribution either to the field of parole or to the Association. This year's recipient was **Ms. Peggy Burke**, Principal at the Center for Effective Public Policy.

In presenting this award, President Peterson noted that Ms. Burke has been recognized not only here in the United States, but world-wide for her contributions to advancing the quality of our work through evidence-based-practices within every aspect of release decision making and parole.

She is a prolific trainer, author and speaker, having produced numerous training videos and participated in innumerable presentations at various conferences and academy's, including many APAI events. One of her most recognized publications is *Abolishing Parole: Why the Emperor Has No Clothes*.



Most recently Peggy has been the driving force behind the National Parole Resource Center (NPRC), a BJA funded

partnership with APAI. NPRC, under Burke's leadership has provided numerous training and technical assistance resources to APAI members over the last five years. This initiative has been instrumental in bringing much needed professional development and organizational development opportunities to releasing authorities across the U.S.

### Vincent O'Leary Award

**Tena Pate**, Chair of the Florida Commission on Offender Review, was given this award, which recognizes and rewards an individual who has made significant contributions to the Association of Paroling Authorities International and has demonstrated vision, leadership and commitment to the field of parole.



Prior to being appointed Chair of the Florida Parole Commission, Pate had a long history of service to her home state of Florida in the field of victim's advocacy. In her tenure with the Florida Commission, this year's recipient has advocated for and saw passage of several pieces of legislation that improve the operation of her commission as well as improve their service to the public, particularly crime victims.

Her service to APAI has been no less impressive. Pate is Chair of the APAI Crime Victim's Committee. Under her leadership this committee has grown to include national crime victims' advocates and representatives from both NIC and OVC.

Under her leadership, this committee has

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ARMY CLEMENCY AND PAROLE BOARD

BY: WILLIAM WARE, CASE ANALYST

The Army Clemency and Parole Board (ACPB) fulfills a unique, yet critical mission within the Department of the Army. Its existence is fortunately unknown to most, but it is an essential element of the military justice system.

The modern-day ACPB was established in 1949, and derives its authority from Federal Law, specifically Title 10 United States Code section 874, for clemency, and section 952, for parole. The foundation for ACPB's clemency and parole considerations are listed in Army Regulation 15-130, which identifies a wide range of considerations for decision-making, but also provides significant latitude and discretion for board members to render decisions. Its foundation is strengthened by following national standards and best practices as an American Correctional Association accredited board.

The ACPB is an independent board within the Army Review Board's Agency (ARBA). ARBA serves as the highest administrative level for review of personnel actions taken by lower levels of the Army. The Agency's Director, Mrs. Francine Blackmon, has oversight of ARBA's 15 separate boards and is the Senior Executive for the ACPB. Her primary ACPB

responsibilities include making final decisions on clemency requests and parole appeals.

Unlike most parole boards, the ACPB Senior Executive also has Secretary of the Army oversight responsibility of the Army Corrections System. This responsibility enhances the relationship between the parole board and Army Corrections Command. Decisions and policy are often coordinated between the two agencies and each support the other's mission.

Mrs. Blackmon also has oversight of a pool of 16 active duty, senior Army Officers. From those Officers, 3 serve on the ACPB panel on a rotating basis to conduct hearings twice weekly. The remaining members of the 5 member panel consist of a legal advisor and the civilian Chairman, Mr. Steven L. Andraschko. While active-duty Board Members are assigned to ARBA, the ACPB has 7 full-time staff: the Chairman, Board Manager, Clemency Assistant, and 4 Case Analysts/Hearing Examiners.

Unlike many of the ACPB's parole counterparts, the Board retains discretionary release authority for court-martialed Soldiers who received sentences to

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ARMY CLEMENCY AND PAROLE BOARD

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confinement greater than one year. As former Soldiers, the vast majority of ACPB offenders possess a high school diploma, solid work history, limited criminal history, and minimal substance abuse issues. This combination of factors, in conjunction with military training, oftentimes results in successful supervision outcomes once approved for conditional release under the supervision of U.S. Probation Officers.

This success translates to a 4.5 percent revocation rate for supervisees released and revoked between fiscal years 2010 and 2013. Despite such low revocation rates, approximately

83 percent of military prisoners are convicted of a violent and/or sex offense, which leaves a very slim margin of error for release decisions.

The Board strives to strike a balance between managing risk to society and releasing prisoners on supervision when they appear capable of successfully functioning as pro-social citizens. This challenge is as difficult for the Army as it is for paroling entities across the nation. Despite this challenge, the ACPB remains focused on public safety and adherence to ARBA's overarching mission of justice, equity, and compassion.



## WYOMING OFFERING VICTIM-CENTERED PROGRAMMING

BY: RANDI LOSALU, VICTIM SERVICES COORDINATOR

"The last time I saw the offender, he was pleading for a light sentence and minimizing his actions. I'd like to see him now. Can you help me with that?"

"I have some questions to ask and some things to say to my offender. Is there a way I can see him in prison?"

"My offender wrote an apology letter and I'd like to see if he is really sincere and see what changes he has made in his life."

As the Victim Services Coordinator for the Wyoming Board of Parole, I have received many requests like these from victims. They would like to face their offender while in prison, but have had no mechanism to do so. The Wyoming Board of Parole with the support of the Wyoming Department of Corrections can now assist with these requests through a new victim-centered and offender-sensitive program called Victim-Offender Dialogue (VOD).

The Board has always viewed victims and their voices as important. In fact, victims concerns are referenced in our Mission Statement which states, "Consideration will be given to public safety, *victims*, and the treatment and control of the offender." The Board was supportive of implementing a program that would not only help facilitate the requests of the victim, but also serve as a beneficial tool for offenders.

The Wyoming VOD provides an opportunity for victims/survivors to meet with an offender face-to-face with the assistance of a trained facilitator. The program is not for every victim, but for those that choose to participate it can be a very empowering experience.

The process of implementing this new victim-centered program started back in 2012 when a victim accepted an apology letter

written by his offender. Upon receiving the letter his immediate reaction was the desire to meet with the offender to determine if the individual was sincere in his apology and to personally see the changes this person had made to help him be a productive citizen when released.

There was not a formal process to assist this request, but I was able to gain approval from the Board to go forward with this particular VOD request. With the help of other state VOD programs and their experience, I was able to thoroughly prepare and successfully facilitate a face-to-face meeting with outstanding results.

After researching other programs and learning best-practices, I then submitted a proposal to the Board who were supportive of developing a formal program for Wyoming. I collaborated with Montana's VOD program coordinator, Sally Hillander, to conduct training. We were able to secure grant funding through Lorie Brisbin at the National Institute of Corrections and brought in Jon Wilson with JustAlternatives for the facilitator training. After 40-hour training, myself, a corrections caseworker, a prison ministry volunteer, and a former board member were trained to be the first Wyoming VOD facilitators.

The VOD officially launched at the beginning of 2014. I distributed a press release around the state, conducted radio interviews, and appeared on the state capital news channel. Information about our program was also made available on our website. There are already four active VOD cases, which include attempted manslaughter, 2 first degree murders, and a DUI homicide. There are also victims who have inquired about the new program and are considering the possibility of participating. Phenomenal progress has already been made in one of the cases and we hope to successfully complete a dialogue by the end of the year.

## APAI 2014 AWARD RECIPIENTS CONT. FROM PAGE 2

been instrumental in developing and advocating for conference programming related to crime victims issues. This committee regularly contributes articles to the APAI Newsletter and Pate was instrumental in bring forth APAI's first ever training webinar entitled *Improving the Parole Process for Crime Victims for Crime Victims and Survivors*.

Pate and her staff were the gracious hosts of the 2012 APAI Annual Training Conference in Orlando.

In nominating her for this award her staff explained that "Chair Pate has a desire to serve others and a commitment to lead. She provides opportunities for growth to staff both professionally and personally."

### Ben Baer Award



Outgoing APAI President **Jeffrey Peterson** was presented with this year's Ben Baer Award. This award is given to recognize and reward an individual who has demonstrated significant service in the field of parole or community corrections.

Peterson has worked for the Minnesota Department of Corrections for 40 plus years beginning in 1973 as a Probation and Parole Agent in Southern Minnesota and then, in Hennepin County, covering several metropolitan and rural counties. In 1986, he was promoted to Community Services District Supervisor and managed a District Office supervising all the DOC corrections agents within a large district in Central and Southern Minnesota.

He has most recently served as the Executive Officer of the Hearings and Releasing Authority, within the Minnesota Department of Corrections. Mr. Peterson has worked tirelessly to implement best practices and improve hearing and release practices based on current research and accepted standards. Throughout his career, he has emphasized the importance of continuous learning and improvement, and encourages his staff to do the same.

Peterson has been a member of APAI for seventeen years, helping to advance best practices in the field of parole nationwide and internationally. He served as APAI's President from 2012 to 2014

Peterson served as APAI's Vice President for one year and the Central Region Vice President for a number of years. Throughout these appointments he has been an active, participating member of APAI's Executive Committee as well as other committees. Peterson has worked to strengthen collaboration and improved relationships between paroling/releasing authorities and correctional agencies. He has represented APAI on the newly developed Community Corrections Collaborative Network, and has expanded training opportunities for APAI members through the association's relationship with the National Parole Resource Center.

Peterson has supported technological advancements to modernize the association in an effort to strengthen membership and increase communication amongst its members. He has been a driving force behind all APAI functions and initiatives.

In nominating him for this award, incoming APAI President Cynthia Mausser wrote, "Peterson has maintained a lengthy career dedicated to professionalizing the field of parole and the work of releasing authorities. He is highly deserving of the Ben Baer award."

### Community Service Award

The host committee presents this award to an individual or organization which has contributed significantly to the furthering of the rehabilitative efforts of parole. This year's award recipient was **Reverend Leon Kelly**.

Reverend Kelly was born in Denver. His grandfather and father were both ministers. Reverend Kelly attended the University of Colorado and played AAU basketball while there. Upon graduation, he continued playing semi-professional basketball.

In 1979, Kelly's life took a wrong turn; he was convicted of drug-related charges and received a five to eight year prison sentence in the Colorado State Penitentiary. While there, Kelly had time to re-evaluate his life.



He redirected his life and received a doctorate from the Family Bible Institute of Denver, and became an ordained minister

Reverend Kelly has been a positive force in helping curtail gang violence by being a mediator between rival gangs and also serving as a positive role model for the younger, at-risk youth.

Reverend Kelly currently serves as Executive Director of Open Door Youth Gang Alternative. His organization's most important goal is to prevent kids from ever joining gangs. Open Door has developed successful programs with elementary and middle school-aged children that focus on prevention. Open Door seeks to educate people and the community on the signs revolving around gang recruitment, violence, and involvement.

In addition, Open Door also spearheads a program with the State of Colorado, Department of Corrections that aims to reduce recidivism among gang-affiliated parolees. *Flippin' the Script* creates specialized and individualized plans which offer assistance in the areas of housing, employment, job readiness, transportation, money management, mentoring, family relationships, and support systems.

Please join all of us at APAI in congratulating these dedicated professional for these well-deserved honors.

## FLORIDA PAROLE COMMISSION GETS NEW NAME

BY: TENA PATE, CHAIR

The former Florida Parole Commission is excited to share the news that its name has changed! During the 2014 Legislative Session, a bill was passed to rename the Florida Parole Commission and on July 1, 2014, the agency officially became the *Florida Commission on Offender Review (FCOR)*.

Our new name accurately reflects the modern day roles and responsibilities the Commission carries out on a daily basis for the state of Florida. We hold offenders accountable for their behaviors and ensure public safety through the careful selection of offenders for re-entry into society. Why change the name you may ask? Now in existence for 73 years, many of the functions the Commission performs today didn't exist when the agency was created in 1941. Today, making parole determinations is only about ten percent of our agency's workload and we are also responsible for clemency services, offender revocations, victims' services, and making conditional release, conditional medical release and addiction recovery decisions.

The Florida Commission on Offender Review (*formerly the Florida Parole Commission*) remains a constitutionally authorized,

quasi-judicial, decision-making body, and our mission is the same – to ensure public safety and provide victim assistance through the post prison release process. We are proud that our ever-evolving role in Florida's criminal justice system is now reflected in the new and modern agency name, the Florida Commission on Offender Review or FCOR.



As a partner of the Commission, we invite you to update any materials referencing the Florida Parole Commission to the Florida Commission on Offender Review and encourage you to contact our office at (850)921-2816 if you need any assistance. To learn more about the Commission, visit us online at [www.fcor.state.fl.us](http://www.fcor.state.fl.us).

### APAI's New Membership Fees

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- Organizational (9 to 13 members) \$475
- Organizational (14 to 20 members) \$575
- Associate \$40
- Student \$15

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