



# Association of Paroling Authorities International

www.apaintl.org

## FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear APAI Members:

It is hard for me to believe that the second year of my term as President of APAI is underway. As I look back on the first year, I am proud of what we have accomplished and am very grateful to the APAI staff and Executive Committee for all their hard work and support.

Much of the year was devoted to planning the Chairs' Meeting and Annual Training Conference (ATC) held this year in Columbus, Ohio. As those of you who have hosted past conferences know, the efforts of the host committee and APAI members who volunteer to help plan the event are responsible for its success. This year was no exception. The event commenced on Sunday with the Chairs' Meeting. Our thanks to Jeff Peterson for taking the lead in planning the meeting, and to Danielle LaCost and David Blumberg for assisting Jeff. My dear friend and colleague Cliff Crooks sacrificed his usual Sunday golf game to facilitate the meeting, and as expected did a great job. Time was devoted in the afternoon for regional breakout meetings, at which ideas for future meetings and training sessions were developed. After a productive day, participants joined other APAI members and conference attendees at an evening reception. Everyone seemed to enjoy the musical entertainment and the opportunity to meet and network with each other.

The training conference itself began on Monday morning with a very special opening session. Attendees were visibly moved by the performance of the choir, whose members were inmates from the Ohio Reformatory for Women. A special thanks to Warden Roni Burkes for facilitating the presence of the choir members who performed on site. The agenda over the next two days proved to be quite robust, and from your feedback, you particularly enjoyed the general sessions. I am extremely appreciative to those who took time out of their busy schedules and agreed to come to Columbus to present, and thank them for the valuable information shared.

This year's awards luncheon held on Tuesday was very special. Congratulations to David Blumberg of Maryland for receiving the Ben Baer award and to Matthew Degnan of Rhode Island for receiving the Vincent O'Leary award. The President's Award was given to Dr. Ralph Serin of Carleton University for his significant contributions to not only the field of parole and release decision-making but also for his support of APAI. We look forward to continued work with Dr. Serin in advancing the practices of parole professionals and practitioners.

At the conclusion of the conference, the National Parole Resource Center (NPRC) held a day and a half

workshop on handling Parole Board turnover, which also received positive feedback. I would like to thank NPRC for its continued support of our conference, and its partnership in providing a workshop alongside the conference. We look forward to future workshops for our members that NPRC will host and will keep you apprised of those upcoming opportunities.

No conference is successful without the support of sponsors and exhibitors. I would like to thank the National Institute of Corrections and the Office for Victims of Crime, as well as the vendors who exhibited during the conference, and those who contributed to the silent auction for their support. Finally, I am extremely proud of the host committee and Ohio Parole Board staff who worked so hard to provide an informative and entertaining Annual Training Conference, and I cannot thank them enough for their efforts. As I indicated last year, I will do my best to continue to foster the opportunities for you to network and communicate amongst the membership, and will ensure that in planning for the 2016 ATC in Daytona Beach, Florida, your comments and suggestions for improvements are sincerely considered.

Speaking of Florida, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Florida Chair Tena Pate to the position of Vice President of APAI. Tena assumed this position on July 1st. I am confident that Tena will prove to be an asset to the Executive Committee and to the membership as a whole, and I look forward to working with her over the next year. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Texas Chair Rissie Owens for her service to APAI as she leaves the office of Vice President. Rissie has been a dedicated APAI member for many years, and has served on the Executive Committee in a few capacities, including Southern Region VP, prior to assuming the Vice Presidency. I wish Rissie all the best and know that she will continue to support and remain active in APAI.

I am very much looking forward to the upcoming year and to continuing with efforts to strengthen our membership and provide opportunities for learning and growth. Please continue to reach out to the members of the Executive Committee and let us know how we can best serve you. I wish you all great success.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia Mausser

**President**  
Association of Paroling Authorities International

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## Things to Do in 2015

- Renew APAI Membership
- Serve on an APAI Committee
- Urge a fellow organization to join APAI
- Make plans to attend the 2016 Chairs Meeting and Annual Training Conference in Daytona Beach, FL May 15-18, 2016

## APAI's Membership Fees

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



## THE CANADIAN VICTIMS BILL OF RIGHTS AND THE PAROLE BOARD OF CANADA

BY: DANIELLE NASRALLAH, MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS, PAROLE BOARD OF CANADA

On April 23, 2015, the Government of Canada passed in Parliament the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights (CVBR), known as Bill C-32, which for the first time in Canadian history establishes statutory rights for victims at the federal level. Under the CVBR, victims of crime will have the right to information, protection, participation, and the right to seek restitution—rights which are aimed at providing victims with more options for meaningful participation in the Canadian criminal justice system.

The CVBR has important implications for the Parole Board of Canada (PBC), which in 2013-14 had 22,323 contacts with 7,500 registered victims, and coordinated 264 presentations by victims at 142 hearings.

Because the Parole Board of Canada has been at the forefront of innovating through its policy in relation to victims for many years, the CVBR enshrines into law many of the Board's current practices. The Corrections and Conditional Release Act (CCRA) will be revised to reflect a victim's right to receive a PBC decision regarding the offender who harmed them, and the ability for victims to designate a representative to receive information or to waive their right to information. The definition of a victim will also be amended to include those who have experienced "property damage or economic loss", however the PBC already considers victims of financial crimes to be victims.

Beyond formalizing existing practices into law, however, the CVBR will also require certain operational changes by the PBC—for example, the requirement to inform a victim and consider their concerns before removing or varying a condition on an offender that had been imposed as a result of a victim's statement. The CVBR will also require the PBC to provide victims who cannot attend a hearing with access to an audio

recording of the proceedings if they request it. These provisions will come into force at a later date, yet to be determined by Government.

"The Parole Board of Canada is committed to ensuring that victims are treated with respect and compassion throughout the parole process, and that the Board does whatever it can within the bounds of the law to ensure the rights of victims are respected," explained Harvey Cenaiko, Chairperson of the PBC. "The information that victims provide is important as it gives Board members insight into the offence and the harm done, and it informs their risk assessment. It also contributes to quality decisions and successful parole outcomes."

Victims will also have the ability to submit a complaint under the CVBR if they believe that their rights have not been respected. This applies to all victim-serving federal entities, and the Board's formal victim complaints mechanism will be implemented on July 23, 2015. Providing victims with a formal process of expressing grievances will serve to emphasize the Board's commitment to fairness and transparency.

The Board has ensured that its policies and practices reflect victims' rights under the CCRA (or within the conditional release system), and the CVBR will serve to further entrench those rights.

"The Board has long been an innovator when it comes to balancing the rights of victims with those of offenders, and I know that as we continue down the path that is being charted by recent legislation, we will continue to help shape a future in which victims' rights are clearly defined and respected," said Mr. Cenaiko.

## APAI MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: TENA M. PATE, APAI VICE PRESIDENT



Recipient of the 2014 Vincent O'Leary award, returning chair of the victim's committee and recently elected as APAI's Vice President for the 2015-17 term, Commissioner Tena M. Pate has served the State of Florida and the public safety community for more than 30 years.

Commissioner Pate began her criminal justice career in 1979 with the Office of State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit, and later became the first person appointed to serve as victims' advocate for Okaloosa and Walton Counties. She relocated to Tallahassee in 1989 to accept a position in the Executive Office of the Governor and

in 1993, was appointed as Florida's Victims' Rights Coordinator in the administration of Governor Lawton Chiles. She was subsequently reappointed to the position by Governors Buddy Mackay and Jeb Bush, and while in the Governor's office also served as a Clemency Assistant and State Attorney Liaison. In 2003, Governor Bush and the Florida Cabinet appointed Pate to serve as a Commissioner for the Florida Commission on Offender Review (FCOR). She was reappointed to serve by

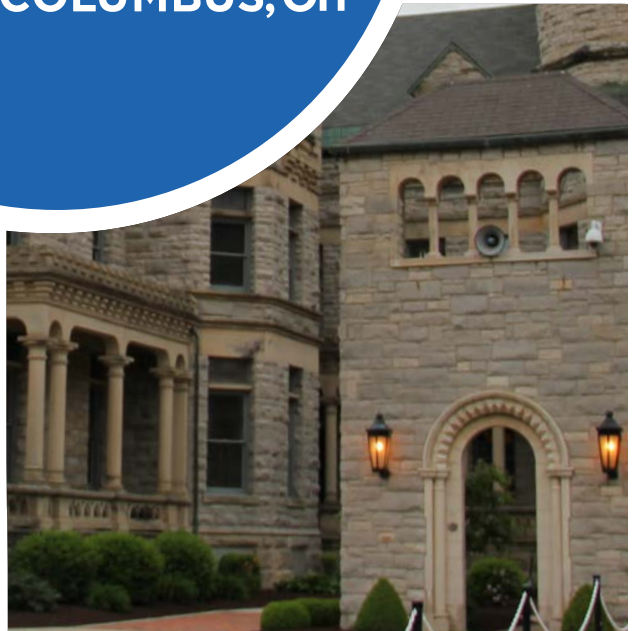
Governors Charlie Crist and Rick Scott and is also currently serving her fifth year as Chair.

Formally known as the Florida Parole Commission, FCOR is a constitutionally authorized, quasi-judicial, decision-making body which ensures public safety and provides victim assistance through the post prison release process. As Chair of the Commission, Pate is the chief administrative officer of the agency and responsible for the day to day operations as well as setting its vision, policy, and legislative agenda. As one of three voting Commissioners, she is responsible for conducting weekly public hearings to administer parole release decisions, impose conditions of conditional release and addiction recovery supervision, and make final determinations with regard to revocation of post release supervision. Commissioner Pate also has the responsibility of providing advisory recommendations to the Board of Executive Clemency, for which the Commission serves as the administrative arm.

Through her extensive work in victims' rights, Commissioner Pate has become an ardent supporter and advocate for citizens who have fallen prey to crime. She has worked "within the system" and "outside the box" to bring about much needed change in her state and played a key role in the enhancement of crime victims' rights. In 2010, Florida passed a victim-friendly bill that gave the Commission authority to increase the interval between parole consideration re-interviews to seven years for parole eligible offenders convicted of certain offenses. For victims and their families, this reduction in the frequency of parole opportunities

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## APAI MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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lessened the trauma, stress, and financial burden associated with the potential release of an offender. In 2013, the law was augmented and the list of crimes eligible for subsequent interview dates to be set within seven years was expanded even further to protect crime victims from unnecessary strife.

Positions on public safety boards and task forces including the Florida Supreme Court's Florida Innocence Commission, the Attorney General's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team and the Self-Inflicted Crimes Task Force, have provided Commissioner Pate the opportunity to identify ways she and the Commission can have a greater impact on the citizens of Florida, and in 2014 the agency launched a crime prevention initiative that invites youth offenders to Commission hearings to observe first-hand the effect crime has on victims and their families, as well as the supporters and loved ones of the offender.

Under Commissioner Pate's steadfast direction, several progressive initiatives have been established at FCOR including the implementation of an automated Commission Management System to streamline the preparation and review of cases by Commissioners; a Condition-

al Release Supervision pilot program with the Florida Department of Corrections to ensure proper programming for eligible inmates during incarceration for greater awareness and accountability of post-release supervision terms, greater chances of successful re-entry and reduced recidivism rates; an inmate family coordinator to offer clarification and information to Commission hearing visitors and complement the existing victims' services coordinator; and a cost-saving Notice to Appear alternative to arrest warrants allowing Commissioners the ability to direct inmates who have allegedly violated the conditions of their supervision to remain in the community during the revocation process in lieu of incarceration while awaiting final disposition of the violation by the Commission. Commissioner Pate's influence also played a pivotal role in securing the agency's new name last year which was needed to more accurately reflect the roles and responsibilities the Commission carries out on a daily basis.

Through her servant leadership style, relentless pursuit of knowledge and unmitigated commitment to making sound decisions affecting public safety, Commissioner Pate has left an indelible mark on the landscape of criminal justice administration and victims' rights in Florida.

### WE THANK THESE COMPANIES FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR 2015 ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE.



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# Save the Date!

## 2016 APAI Training Conference

May 15 - 18  
Daytona Beach, FL



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