



Association of Paroling Authorities International

www.apaintl.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Greetings APAI Members:

As we leave the summer months and approach fall, we at APAI are excited about all of the opportunities that exist for our members to develop professionally and improve in their work protecting public safety through the effective re-entry of offenders into our communities. These opportunities exist because of the hard work of the men and women with whom I serve in APAI.

Just this past September APAI launched its long awaited Mentoring Program for New Chairs. Chairs that are within the first two years of their appointments can be assigned an experienced Chair with whom they will have the opportunity to consult and learn from over the course of their initial period as Chair. Care is taken to match mentors and mentees based upon commonalities of the structure of their agencies as well as the nature of the issues they are currently facing.

As an extra bonus, the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) used the APAI mentors to assist with their recent orientation for new Parole Chairs at their Academy in Colorado. The APAI Mentors were allowed to attend the Orientation with their mentees and work alongside them as they worked to develop the concept of a project that is now assigned to them as a part of their training. These teams will continue to interact with each other as they implement their plan to improve their Boards operation as well as deal with other issues that may arise.

I would like to give a special thanks to APAI Regional Vice President Danielle LaCost and her Professional Development Committee for bringing this project to fruition and also to Robbye Braxton of NIC for giving us the opportunity to insert our presence in the NIC Orientation.

I would particularly like to thank David Blumberg of the Maryland Parole Commission, Tena Pate of the Florida Commission on Offender Review, Monica David, former chair of that Commission, John Felts of the Arkansas Parole Board and Clark Harms of then Utah Parole Board for volunteering to take time from their busy schedules to travel to Colorado and assist their newer colleagues in their development as leaders.

And I would like to invite any newly appointed Chairs to contact their Regional or Sectional Vice President and let them know of their interest in having a mentor assigned to assist them in their new

positions. (You can identify your VP at our website: apaintl.com) I would also urge those experienced member Chairs out there to contact our offices about volunteering to be a mentor.

Also upcoming is the National Summit on Paroling Authorities as Key State Public Safety Partners in Washington DC. Four APAI member agencies have been selected by the National Governor's Association to participate in a project over the next several months to improve the practice of parole within their states by bringing together Governor's criminal justice policy advisers along with the states' institutional and supervision partners. APAI will participate in this project along with our partners at the National Parole Resource Center (NPRC).

Also on the horizon is the NPRC sponsored workshop, to be held at the Correctional Management Institute of Texas in Huntsville. Forty participants will gather to hear from nationally recognized experts on matters related to the setting of effective parole conditions and good, sound revocation practices.

We also anxiously await the release of the information that has been gathered as a result of the Robina Institute Parole Release and Revocation Project.

The APAI Business Plan Update has been approved and will be available on our website soon. This document will guide the work of your association for the next two years. Also soon to be available are two revised Resolutions; one concerning the role of crime victims in the criminal justice system and the other voicing APAI's support for releasing authorities' participation in good, effective re-entry practices. My thanks to the recently retired Chair of the Resolution Committee, Lynne Delano of Washington state for her leadership on this work.

And last but not least, APAI Vice President Tena Pate and her crew in Florida are hard at work on the 2016 APAI Annual Training Conference. We hope to see you all in Daytona Beach, May 15 - 18.

Warmest regards,

Cynthia Mausser
APAI President

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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**

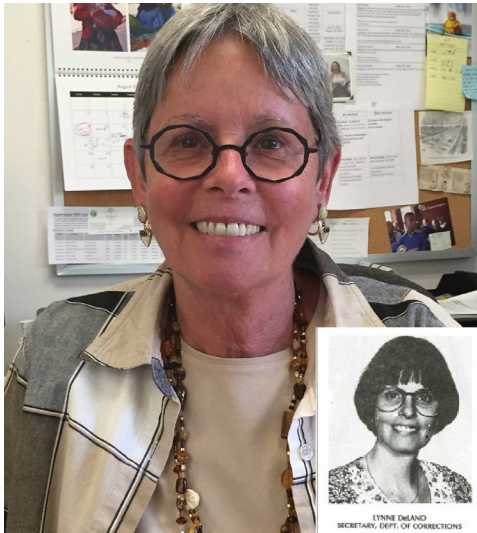
APAI's Membership Fees

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

LYNNE DELANO, A FORCE FOR OFFENDER CHANGE RETIRES IN SEPTEMBER AFTER 37-YEAR CAREER

BY: ANDREW GARBER, DOC COMMUNICATIONS

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Lynne DeLano started out as a correctional officer in a women's prison in South Dakota and quickly rose through the ranks to become a warden & finally the state's first secretary of corrections in 1984 (inset). She later became chairwoman of the ISRB in Washington state

although not for much longer. DeLano, who is 65, retires Sept. 14. Gov. Jay Inslee has appointed Kecia Rongen to be the new chairwoman.

Working on the ISRB was a good way to cap her career, DeLano said, noting the job calls on her long experience working with offenders every time the board decides whether to keep an inmate behind bars, or set them free.

"There is a huge burden in weighing whether it's the right decision to release this person, or not to release them," she said. "You want to make the right decision and you don't want to see anybody hurt again." The review process allows the board to weigh its decisions carefully, and judge whether the offenders have changed, she said.

The ISRB, formerly called the Board of Prison Terms and Paroles, oversees felony offenders who committed crimes before 1984, prisoners sentenced as juveniles to life in prison and certain sex offenders.

Kevin Bovenkamp, DOC's assistant secretary for health services who's known DeLano for 20 years, says she's helped bring a different focus to the ISRB, which has traditionally been pretty conservative.

She helped convince board members that their "job is not to keep people in prison indefinitely. It is to look for a pathway that lets these people reach up, and try to take a step forward to being releasable," Bovenkamp said.

Working with inmates for 37 years taught Lynne DeLano a fundamental lesson.

"People can, and do, change," she said. "You see them, you see that happen."

DeLano should know. She worked as a correctional officer, a warden and South Dakota's secretary of corrections during her career.

She's currently chairwoman of the Washington State Indeterminate Sentence Review Board, ISRB,

DeLano notes that "certain people should probably be in prison forever because of the danger they present to public safety," but added she also sees inmates who've turned around their lives.

"You can watch their expressions and the way they describe themselves and what they've learned," she said. "Most of these guys have been in treatment. It's just encouraging to see that they are getting it, that they've had a moment of enlightenment."

DeLano feels the broader public has many misconceptions about offenders in prison, most of whom don't commit new crimes after serving their sentences and being released.

"I've met some nice people in prison, offenders who made some horrendous, stupid mistakes. You meet some who have a college degree. Some who just got hooked on drugs and did bad things. It's a variety of people. And they are people."

Many come from low-income, dysfunctional families and suffered physical, sexual and mental abuse growing up and developed drug and alcohol problems – factors that contributed to them landing in prison, she said.

"On the same hand, there are people with that same background who have chosen not to get involved in crime. So how do we help offenders make better choices," DeLano said.

That's what she's enjoyed most about her career in corrections. Helping people change.

"You're a teacher, you're a mentor, you're the disciplinarian, you're the cop, you're the social worker. It's like being a parent. You're each of those things depending on the circumstances," she said.

Bovenkamp said that as long as he's known DeLano, she's been an advocate for helping people improve their lives. He noted that earlier in her career she took a break from corrections and spent time in the Peace Corps in Romania with her husband.

"She's a service person," he said. "She just believes in helping others whether that's people in Romania, or people in prison. It's always been a part of her mission to be out there and help folks."

DeLano says she has no regrets about her career choice. "It's interesting, it's challenging and there's no day that's the same," she said. "I've always enjoyed it."

Even so, DeLano's looking forward to retirement, learning long ago that no matter what your job is, "the world goes on without you."



THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF A CRIME VICTIM IN THE CLEMENCY PROCESS

BY: TENA M. PATE, FLORIDA COMMISSION ON OFFENDER REVIEW CHAIR

JULIA MCCALL, OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY COORDINATOR

DAWN MIKOLA, VICTIM ADVOCATE

MOLLY KELLOGG-SCHMAUCH, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

APAI's Crime Victim's Committee is committed to bringing you relevant information pertaining to victim services in the post-conviction processes. This article focuses on services provided to victims in the clemency process.

The complex Criminal Justice System can seem like a maze to the millions of crime victims and survivors who try to navigate through its winding processes each year. But the important information crime victims receive, as well as the opportunities they have to provide input, can play a vital role in a victim's mental and emotional well-being and assist them in putting their lives back together in the wake of victimization.

From the moment a crime is committed, victims have statutory rights and ideally should be informed of them at every stage of the process, including; at the time the crime is reported, during the offender's trial and sentencing, the incarceration period, as well as when the offender reenters the community. But what happens during the period of post incarceration when the offender applies for clemency? Does the victim have a right to know about that too and do they have the option of providing input? In the majority of states across the nation the answer to that question is yes.

In a survey conducted by the Florida Commission on Offender Review (FCOR), states were asked what role victims played in the clemency

process and of the 41 states that responded 30 of them allow victims to attend clemency hearings, or give victims the opportunity to provide written statements to the Clemency Board. Only three states allow little or no victim input in the clemency process.

In the state of Florida, Executive Clemency is a power vested in the Governor by the Florida Constitution of 1968 and is considered an act of mercy that absolves the individual upon whom it is bestowed from all or any part of the punishment that the law imposes. The Governor and the three members of the Cabinet collectively sit as the Board of Executive Clemency and make a variety of clemency decisions including full pardon, pardon without firearm authority, pardon for misdemeanor, commutation of sentence, remission of fines and forfeitures, specific authority to own, possess, or use firearms, restoration of civil rights and restoration of alien status under Florida law.

Until 2004, Florida did not have a specifically designated position to assist victims whose offenders were in the clemency process and shared resources among the Attorney General's Office and the Governor's Office. However, with a growing need and funding from a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant, a position was established at FCOR to perform the diligent efforts required to identify and search for victims in clemency cases and provide personal advocacy services to them.

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APAI MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: WASHINGTON STATE'S INDETERMINATE SENTENCE REVIEW BOARD

BY: KECIA RONGEN MA, CHAIR, INDETERMINATE SENTENCE REVIEW BOARD

The Washington State's Indeterminate Sentence Review Board, or the ISRB, is made up of four members, one of whom is designated as the Chair.

Chairperson Kecia Rongen, M.A. has worked in the criminal justice system for 19 years, specializing with the sexual offender population. Just prior to coming to the Board she served as the Administrator for Sexual Offender Programs within the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration.

In addition, she has served on a number of legislative workgroups related to sex offender management. She has served as the Chair of the state-wide Sex Offender Policy Board twice, currently and from 2010-2012. She is a current Board Member for the Washington Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers. The Governor appointed her to the Board in 2012, and appointed her as Chair in September of 2015.

Member Tom Sahlberg has worked in a variety of jobs in the field of criminal justice. He served on the Spokane Police Department for 26 years, then "retired" to serve as the Victim/Witness Coordinator with

the Spokane County Prosecutor's Office. He has participated in the Sentencing Guidelines Commission, Sex Offender Policy Board and is currently an active member of the Spokane County Law and Justice Council. Governor Gregoire appointed him to the Board in 2007, and Governor Inslee re-appointed him in 2012.

Member Lori Ramsdell-Gilkey began her career with the Department of Corrections in 1989 as a Community Corrections Officer. In the last 26 years she has worked with a specialized caseload of sex offenders, facilitated offender programs in the community, conducted staff training, was the Hearings Unit Administrator for several years, and most recently she was the Program Manager of the Law Enforcement Notification Unit. She was a participant in the Sex Offender Policy Board, the End of Sentence Review Committee, Gender Responsive Initiative, PREA Implementation, and the WASPC Sex Offender Notification and Registration Committee. The Governor appointed her to the Board in April 2015.

The Board currently has a vacant position. **Continued on Pg. 4**



APAI EXPANDS INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

BY: KEITH HARDISON, APAI CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

JEFFREY PETERSON, APAI PAST PRESIDENT

DANIELLE LACOST, APAI REGIONAL VP

In an effort to be more responsive to the needs of our international members and colleagues, APAI staff and Executive Committee members have over the last year sought out opportunities to learn about the issues facing the international community and to spread the word about responsible parole practice in some places not reached before.

In May of this year APAI Past President Jeffrey Peterson attended the Parole Board of Canada Annual Training on Risk Assessment [ATRA] in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada. Parole Board Members from all Canadian Provinces attend this annual event that is rotated among the Provinces each year. There were approximately 135 members in attendance this year.

Although the primary focus of the training is risk assessment, the Structured Assessment and Intervention Framework [SAIF] was highlighted in both a plenary and workshop session. These sessions explained how this new strengthened and modernized case management tool will support Parole Board of Canada members in their decision making.

According to Jeff, “this presentation truly represents how risk assessment in Canada has evolved from an empirical base to be integrated within case management, resulting in both a resource for release decision making and condition setting for PBC members. This bridge to implementation was a rewarding education for me.”

The Training Conference went beyond risk assessment and case management however, with various plenary and workshop sessions of very worthwhile and timely topics such as Change Management, “Terrorism and Radicalization”, “Independence and Accountability”, among others.

APAI would like to thank Harvey Cenaiko, Chair of the National Parole Board of Canada for this opportunity and hope that we can continue discussions about opening up this event for other APAI members to attend in the future.

APAI Central Region Vice President Danielle LaCost attended the Second World Congress on Community Corrections in Los Angeles. This event, sponsored by the American Probation **Continued on Pg. 6**

APAI MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: WASHINGTON STATE'S INDETERMINATE SENTENCE REVIEW BOARD

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Retired Department of Corrections Director Dick Morgan has been appointed to that spot for the purpose of breaking tie votes. Morgan retired from DOC in 2010 after a 35-year career with the agency. He started as a correctional officer at the Washington State Penitentiary, the third generation of his family to do so. He rose through the ranks to become the prison's superintendent and ultimately the DOC Director. He also serves as a member of the Walla Walla City Council.

The ISRB has jurisdiction over roughly 3,000 offenders. Their work is supported by nine staff members: Robin Riley, Administrative Assistant 5; Kristi Busch, Hearings Investigator 3; Monika Fields, Hearings Investigator 3; Jill Getty, Hearings Investigator 3; Irene Seifert, Correctional Records Technician 2; Jody Swails, Correctional Records Technician 1; Teresa Schmidt, Correctional Records Technician 1; Christine Hunter, Correctional Records Technician 1; Sheila Lewallen, Victim Liaison, Program Administrator 5; and Jennifer Zucati, Office Assistant 3.

Members of the ISRB are appointed by the Governor and serve five-year terms as full-time state employees. The Board is independent but receives administrative services from the Department of Corrections.

The ISRB oversees felony offenders in three distinct populations. The Board has jurisdiction over offenders serving a sentence for any crime committed prior to 1984. The criteria for release of these offenders is that they are “fully rehabilitated and a fit subject for release.” They are

subject to a supervision period of three years.

Certain sex offenders whose crimes were committed after 2001 are also subject to the Board's jurisdiction. The release criteria for these cases is that they, “shall be released unless the Board believes they are more likely than not to commit another sex offense if released with conditions.” The supervision length for the majority of these offenders is lifetime; with some less serious felonies being five or ten years.

Juveniles convicted as adults for Aggravated First Degree Murder or offenses which sentenced them to longer than 20 years are considered by the Board. The release criteria for these cases is that they “shall be released unless the Board believes they are more likely than not to commit a new criminal offense.” Their length of supervision is three years.

Release hearings are held in-person within the prison with offenders, DOC custody staff, mental health and attorneys (if assigned). The ISRB also conducts violation hearing within the jails for offenders who are under our jurisdiction to determine if they should be returned to prison. Victims/survivors can provide input to the Board prior to the Hearing.

The biggest challenge facing the ISRB is keeping up with growing population of sex offenders under lifetime supervision and defining what that looks like.

THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF A CRIME VICTIM IN THE CLEMENCY PROCESS

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Upon contact and notification of clemency case activity, Florida's clemency-specific victim advocate provides the following services:

- Educates victims about their right to participate and have input in the clemency process.
- Advises victims when and how to submit their written statements to the Clemency Board.
- Counsels victims on the clemency process and advises victims when meetings are scheduled. Victims are given the opportunity to attend in person and provide their statement to the Clemency Board, submit their statement confidentially or have the victim advocate read the statement to the Board on their behalf.
- Accompanies victims to the clemency meeting, explains the procedure and debriefs them at the conclusion of the meeting.
- Notifies victims who do not attend the meeting via mail of the decision made by the Clemency Board.
- Assists with Crime Victims Compensation.
- Provides information and referrals to other service providers; such as the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

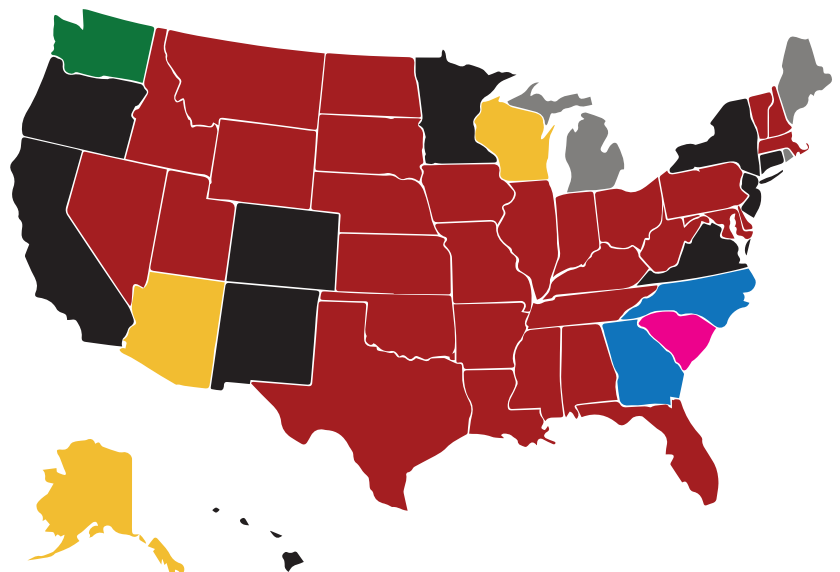
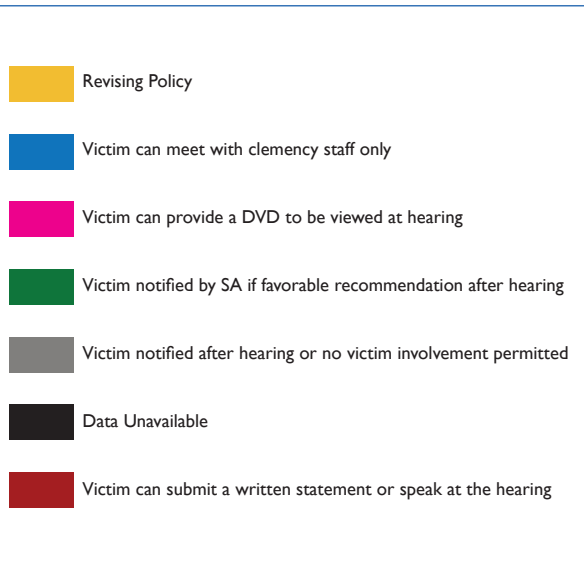
Efforts to ensure victims of those seeking clemency get the services to which they are entitled vary from state to state and include a multitude of approaches when it comes to victim involvement. For instance, South Carolina has taken an innovative approach by allowing victims to provide a videoed statement which is played at the hearing. The State Attorney in Washington notifies the victim within 30 days after the hearing - but only if clemency is granted. Georgia and North Carolina allow victims to meet with clemency staff members, who then presumably convey that information to their Clemency Board members.

Overall, most states have very specific rules in place to assist victims during this process, giving them a voice at meetings or an avenue to be heard which has not always been in the case. In years past, it was not unusual to hear a survivor of violent crime equate the criminal justice process to being victimized a second time due to the lack of information and guidance available. With the creation of VOCA, extensive victim-centered legislation, and the addition of dedicated victim advocates, public policy toward victims and their rights in the clemency process is changing for the better and providing an environment in which crime victims are empowered and ultimately able to heal.

The Florida Commission on Offender Review acts as the administrative arm of the Board of Executive Clemency and is responsible for coordinating all clemency meetings, referring applications for investigation and serves as the official custodian of all clemency records.

STATE BY STATE VIEW OF VICTIM INPUT IN CLEMENCY PROCESS

Legend





APAI EXPANDS INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

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and Parole Association (APPA) and the International Community Corrections Association (ICCA), brought together community corrections practitioners from around the world to participate in workshops, networking opportunities, and to learn from each other about innovative programs and practices in the field.

As Chair of the Professional Development Committee, Danielle leads the development of the program for the APAI Annual Training Conference and the Annual Chairs Meeting. She set out to learn more about international issues in parole and community corrections and as a result of her experience stated, "I was pleasantly surprised to discover, although oceans apart, we are coping with the same struggles; some of which include mass incarceration, PTSD amongst inmates and staff, transforming community supervision to align with evidence based practices and implementing alternatives to incarceration and gender responsivity."

Danielle certainly hopes that through education and collaboration we can find solutions to the common issues that face all of us involved in community corrections and that her trip to the World Congress will result in an enhanced educational experience for all at this year's Annual Training Conference in Daytona Beach.

And finally, also in July, Chief Administrative Officer Keith Hardison spoke to the Association of Caribbean Heads of Prisons and Corrections. This conference, held in Nassau in the Bahamas, brought together

heads of corrections from approximately 40 Caribbean nations to discuss issues of common concern. Some of these countries are contemplating or are the process of establishing a parole system. Hardison was asked to address the lessons learned from the US experience in parole.

Reflecting back on the "abolish parole" movement in the United States, he reviewed the much needed improvements that have taken place in the practice of the profession through the last four decades. Hardison reviewed the many resources available from various sources to guide the establishment of an effective parole system. He emphasized works such as the APAI Essential Elements; NIC's Comprehensive Framework for Paroling Authorities in an Era of Evidence Based Practices; and the NIC Core Competencies: A Resource for Parole Board Chairs, Members, and Executive Staff. In addition he highlighted NIC & Carleton University's Structured Decision Making Framework and Parole Quality Assurance Index, as well as the National Parole Resource Center Ten Practice Targets and the Action Guides that accompany that publication.

Ultimately, Hardison extolled the attendees who might set out to construct a parole system to focus on four critical elements: integrity, competency, transparency and the ability to control your message.

It is expected that continued participation in events like this will enhance APAI's quest to realize its strategic goal of increasing international participation in all APAI activities.

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