



# ASSOCIATION OF PAROLING AUTHORITIES INTERNATIONAL

OCTOBER 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 8 (up to 8 members) \$375
- Organizational 13 (9-13 members) \$475
- Organizational 20 (14-20 members) \$575
- Organizational 30 (21-30 members) \$725
- Organizational 40 (31-40 members) \$875
- Associate \$40
- Student \$15

Greetings APAI Members:

As we approach the heart of our fall season, I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on some exciting collaborative efforts that APAI is participating in, some additions to our Executive Committee, and progress on our business plan. First, we are very grateful that our funding from the National Parole Resource Center (NPRC) will continue well into 2016. Both APAI and NPRC are committed to providing the membership with resources, training and technical opportunities to help advance the practices of our field. The NPRC Advisory Board, of which APAI participates, will soon convene to plan training and technical assistance opportunities for APAI members.

Second, we are also pleased to continue working with Dr. Ralph Serin, with the support of the National Institute of Corrections (NIC), in furthering the use of the structured decision-making framework developed by Dr. Serin. Members from the three sites who participated in the initial research project on the framework, Personnel from Connecticut, Kansas and Ohio will be utilized to deliver technical assistance to select sites interested in potentially adopting the model in the near future. In addition, Dr. Serin is working with the APAI Standards Committee to develop a Quality Assurance Index for use by APAI members to identify strengths and weaknesses within their systems, and to develop strategies for improvement. Our continued collaboration with Dr. Serin presents some very exciting opportunities for our members.

Our committees are also hard at work. In addition to the Standards Committee, the Crime Victims Committee drafted and presented to the Executive Committee for approval "*Ten Core Principles for Ensuring Crime Victims' Rights are Honored and Upheld in Parole/Release Processes*". These principles will help guide parole professionals in including victims in the parole and release processes so that their systems are fair and well-balanced. I would like to thank Tena Pate, the Chair of the Victims Committee for her leadership in moving the work of this committee forward, and all of the members for their efforts. It is greatly

appreciated. The core principles are available for your review on the APAI website.

I am also pleased to have selected new Regional Vice Presidents for the Northeast and Central Regions. Matt Degnan from Rhode Island and Danielle LaCost from Wisconsin are the newly appointed Vice Presidents from those regions, respectively. Both bring to the Executive Committee a wealth of parole and correctional experience, and have been long-standing, dedicated APAI members. We are very fortunate to have Matt and Danielle join the EC!! You can read more about both in the next issue of the newsletter.

Last but not least, the Executive Committee is working hard to update our Business Plan and will be finalizing revisions by the end of the year. We will be sharing those updates with the membership and look forward to rigorously pursuing our goals to not only maintain APAI, but to improve its service to you.

Don't forget that registration is currently open for the 2015 Chairs Meeting and Annual Training Conference. As the host site, I am particularly excited for next year's ATC. The host committee is working hard to develop a robust conference agenda, and to ensure that you enjoy yourselves while visiting Columbus, Ohio. I look forward to seeing you all in the spring!!

Warmest regards,

Cynthia Mautser  
Association of Paroling Authorities International  
President-Elect

Ohio Parole Board Chair

## TWO LONG TIME PAROLE LEADERS RETIRE

BY: KEITH HARDISON, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

This summer saw the retirement of two icons on the field of parole and prison release. Jeff Peterson of Minnesota and Dr. Ken Walker of Rhode Island, both ended distinguished careers in their home states. These two individuals have also been highly active APAI members.

Peterson worked for the Minnesota Department of Corrections for 40 plus years beginning in 1973 as a Probation and Parole Agent in Southern Minnesota. 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.

At the time of his retirement, he served as the Executive Officer of the Hearings and Releasing Authority, where he 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 encouraged his staff to do the same.

Peterson has been a supporter and active member of APAI for seventeen years, having served on many committees. He served as the Central Region Vice President for a number of years, as Vice President for one year and as APAI's President from 2012 to 2014

Peterson will continue to serve the field and APAI in his role as APAI Immediate Past President. Current APAI President Cynthia Mausser intends to rely heavily on his advice and counsel and recently stated, "Jeff exemplifies a true parole professional. He dedicated a long career to the field, and through his

membership and leadership in APAI, has helped to advance the practices of parole and releasing authorities. He has worked tirelessly to sustain the association so that both national and international releasing authorities can benefit from the resources, training opportunities and networking that being a member of APAI offers. We look forward to Jeff continuing to be a vital part and influential member of APAI. "

Dr. Ken Walker began his tenure with the Rhode Island Parole Board in 1980, serving continuously over the past thirty-two years. During those thirty-two years, he has served as Chairperson on two occasions totalling over twelve years. He is a retired professor of Secondary Education at Rhode Island College and an adjunct professor in the Graduate School of Education at Johnson and Wales University. He has also worked as the Assistant Director of Project Upward Bound, a program for economically and educationally disadvantaged youth.

Dr. Walker's commitment to youth and public service exceeds teaching. He is a retired basketball referee at both the high school and collegiate level. He is the Past-President of Big Brothers of Rhode Island, a member of the Board of Trustees of Salve Regina University, a member of the Board of Trustees at St. Mary's Academy Bay View. He has been recognized and honored by several groups, including APAI, where he won the 2004 Vincent O'Leary Award and the 2013 Ben Baer Award for his many contributions to the field of parole.

Dr. Walker is best known for his belief that individuals can change and become productive members of society His commitment went well beyond the walls of the correctional institution as he often made appearances at rehabilitative

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: OHIO PAROLE BOARD

BY: CYNTHIA MAUSSER, CHAIR

By statute, the Ohio Parole Board can consist of up to 12 Board Members. Currently, there are eleven. Board Members are state employees appointed by the Director of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation & Correction (ODRC). One Board Member is appointed as the Victim Representative Board Member.

Board Member positions are full-time. Cynthia Mausser currently serves as Chairperson.

Board Members appointed prior to September 30, 2011, serve at the pleasure of the Director and are not subject to term limits. The Chair is also not subject to term limits. Board Members appointed after September 30, 2011 are appointed to 6 year terms and can serve no more than 2 terms.

The Ohio Parole Board is part of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. Organizationally, it is located within the Adult Parole Authority, in the Division of Parole & Community Services.

The mission of the Ohio Parole Board is to determine release suitability of eligible offenders serving indefinite sentences, and

post-release supervision terms of offenders serving definite sentences through decisions that promote fairness, objectivity, and public safety and are responsive to the concerns of victims, members of the community, and other persons within the criminal justice system.

Ohio's sentencing scheme changed to that of a primarily definite sentence scheme, in July 1996. Offenders serving indefinite sentences imposed prior to that are still subject to the discretionary releasing authority of the Board. Some indefinite sentences were maintained with this sentencing scheme change; primarily life sentences for Aggravated Murder, Murder and some sex offenses. If deemed suitable for release by the Parole Board, these offenders must serve a term of supervision determined by the Parole Board, which for most life sentences is 5 years.

For those offenders sentenced to definite sentences since July 1996, the Board is responsible for determining if supervision at the expiration of the sentence, called Post Release Control (PRC), is mandatory or discretionary. The Board determines the conditions of supervision for all mandatory

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: OHIO PAROLE BOARD

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PRC offenders and determines whether supervision will be required and under what conditions for all discretionary offenders.

The Board is responsible for conducting release violation hearings on offenders serving both types of supervision, and also approves terminations of parole and Post Release Control. The Board also makes recommendations on the transfer of inmates to Transitional Control, commonly known as furlough in other jurisdictions. These functions are performed by its staff of Hearing Officers and Parole Officers.

The Board also has a role in the clemency process, both in death penalty and non-death penalty matters. All applicants seeking clemency must apply through the Board, who in turn will make a recommendation to the Governor, either favorable or unfavorable. The Governor has the sole authority to grant clemency, but cannot act on a clemency application without a recommendation from the Board.

The Ohio Parole Board has been accredited by the American Correctional Association (ACA) since 1994. Its members and staff represent backgrounds in a variety of corrections, criminal justice and social service arenas including parole field services, law enforcement, community corrections, institutions, legal services and victim services.

Parole Board Member Kathleen Kovach is the recipient of the Outstanding Alumni award from the University Of Akron School Of Social Work. Parole Board Member Alicia Handwerk is the recipient of the President's Award from the Ohio Justice Alliance on Community Corrections and the Ohio Community Corrections Association.

Parole Board Chair Cynthia Mausser is the 2010 recipient of APAI Vincent O'Leary Award. In addition, Quality Assurance Analyst Vernise Robinson is the Midwest Regional Director, National Asst. Secretary, and State Membership Chair of the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ).

The biggest challenge facing the Ohio Parole Board is balancing the competing interests and opinions of all of the interested parties in parole and clemency cases, without compromising public safety, while maintaining fairness and integrity. This is particularly challenging given the nature of the offenders in Ohio that are still subject to the discretionary releasing authority of the Board, the vast majority of whom are lifers, sex offenders and chronic violators.

The Ohio Parole Board is looking forward to hosting the 2015 APAI Annual Training Conference and are working hard to provide a dynamic and exciting agenda for our theme High Risk, High Needs, High Profile. Columbus is the capital of Ohio, and a great city with much to offer beyond the Buckeyes of Ohio State University.

The conference site is located in an area with abundant shopping, entertainment and restaurant options. The world renowned Columbus Zoo is nearby, as well as Columbus Crew stadium and Huntington Park, the home field of the Columbus Clippers, voted Ballpark of the Year in 2009. Come join us for not only a great conference, but to see and enjoy all that Columbus has to offer!!



**The Members of the Ohio Parole Board:** Cynthia B. Mausser (Chair), Kathleen Kovach, Ellen Venters, Marc Houk, Andre Imbrogno, Ron Nelson Jr., R.F. Rauschenberg, Michael H. Jackson, Alicia Handwerk, Trayce Thalheimer, Rich Cholar Jr.

## TWO LONG TIME PAROLE LEADERS RETIRE

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programs and in the community to speak to participants and send a supportive message.

His message is clear; he believes in people and their ability to change. Dr. Walker leads by example and he continues to bring credit and honor to the profession of parole.

When asked what it was like to work with Dr. Walker, Matt Degnan, Rhode Island Parole Board Administrator stated, "Working with Dr. Walker was absolutely amazing. Dr. Walker had a heart of gold and loved to help people. Dr. Walker was more than a boss; he is a second father to me as I lost mine shortly after joining the Board."

Dr. Walker will be spending a lot of time on Martha's Vineyard with family and friends, swinging for the stars with his passion for golf.

APAI wishes both of these men happy and productive well deserved retirements.



## ASSOCIATION OF PAROLING AUTHORITIES INTERNATIONAL

# CANADA'S PROPOSED VICTIMS BILL OF RIGHTS AND THE PAROLE BOARD OF CANADA

BY: CHRISTOPHER DICK, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, PAROLE BOARD OF CANADA

The Canadian government has recently proposed that a national Victims Bill of Rights be adopted into law. For its part, the Parole Board of Canada (PBC) has used its authority as an independent administrative tribunal for over 30 years to accommodate victims' needs while respecting the law.

"Public safety is at the centre of what we do," explains Harvey Cenaiko, Chairperson of the PBC. "We've long interpreted that to mean victims have a role in the conditional release process. As such, the Board is well ahead of the curve when it comes to balancing the rights of victims with those of the offenders within the federal system."

In Canada's federal system, the administration of justice is divided between the federal and provincial governments, and most provinces have their own legislation to protect victims' rights. The proposed Victims Bill of Rights would be over-arching legislation that harmonizes the rights of victims within the federal criminal justice system in Canada.

It would also enshrine in law many of the rights victims already have in the federal parole system, such as the ability to present a statement at a parole hearing. The Bill identifies four key victims' rights: the right to information, to protection, to participation and to restitution. The Right to Information, for example, would enshrine in law a victim's ability to receive information from the Parole Board of Canada or the Correctional Service of Canada about the offender who harmed them.

"The Board has been providing information about offenders under its jurisdiction to victims since the 1980s," explains Mr. Cenaiko. For example, using an authority under the Privacy Act,

the Board began sharing information with victims early on, where it was clearly in the public interest to do so. This practice later became law with the passage of the Corrections and Conditional Release Act in 1992.

The Bill, if passed, would lead to some operational changes for the PBC. Under the Right to Information, for example, the Bill proposes that victims who cannot attend a hearing be provided with access to an audio recording of the proceedings. While this sounds simple, questions of privacy, security and victim support would need to be worked out in order to implement it at the Board.

The Bill would also require all federal criminal justice organizations to have in place a complaint mechanism for victims. At present, over 7,500 victims receive information about offenders from the Board, working with specialized Regional Communications Officers (RCO).

Kerry Gatién, RCO for the Parole Board's Ontario/Nunavut region, sees first-hand the effect of providing information to a victim. "For those victims who choose to receive information from the Board, knowing what's going on gives them the opportunity to follow the process and have their voices heard." While complaints are few at present, and most are dealt with informally at the regional level by RCOs, the Board sees the creation of a formal complaint mechanism as an opportunity to receive more feedback from victims and to identify ways to continue to improve its operations.

As an administrative tribunal, the Parole Board will be required to implement the Bill if and when it is passed into law. The Bill is now in Canada's House of Commons.

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### Executive Committee

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