



Association of Paroling Authorities International

www.apaintl.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Greetings APAI Members:

What an exciting time to be President of APAI. Our 2015 Chair's Meeting and Annual Training Conference are just around the corner and my staff is working hard to make your visit to Columbus an educational and enjoyable one.

Our Chair's Meeting will be held on Sunday May 17th. Dr. Ralph Serin will be kicking off the meeting with an overview of some recent information about improving the parole process and some of the current work he is engaged in regarding quality assurance. The Unit Chief of the Criminal Alien Division of the Immigrations and Customs Enforcement Division of the United States Department of Homeland Security will discuss the deportation process for criminal aliens. We will have speakers to discuss dealing with aging and medically fragile populations as well as how to deal with legislators and other key stakeholders.

For the conference itself, we have secured speakers and workshop presenters on a wide variety of current and relevant parole and release topics. Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Timothy McGinty will provide the Keynote Address about his office's experience with investigating and prosecuting Ariel Castro, the defendant who held three women captive for over a decade in his Cleveland home, and the lessons learned from that case.

Dr. Ed Latessa of the University of Cincinnati, who is widely known for his work in developing the ORAS, a risk instrument adopted by many jurisdictions, will give an update on that instrument. Adam Gelb from the Public Safety Performance Project of the Pew Charitable Trusts will present on the alarming rise in the number of inmates being released for prison without supervision.

Those in attendance are in for a special treat. We will hear Dr. Fred Frese discuss recent developments in care for the mentally ill from the perspective as a person living with schizophrenia who has served as a psychologist and advocate for this population for several decades.

In addition, there will be a wealth of workshops

available on numerous topics of interest to the practitioner. For more information about the program visit our website at <http://www.apaintl.org>.

Once again this year, the National Parole Resource Center will be presenting a workshop for 30 successful applicants immediately following the Wednesday APAI Business Meeting. The topic this year will be strategic planning for boards to effectively deal with turnover in membership.

And of course we recognize that after a full day of learning it is important to kick back and network with our peers. In addition to the traditional Sunday welcome reception the host committee has arranged a special "Shawshank Redemption Tour". Participants will have dinner and visit the museum at the now closed Ohio State Reformatory, the setting for the classic prison movie, The Shawshank Redemption. And for Monday night there are plenty of entertainment establishments immediately adjacent to the conference hotel.

We look forward to seeing you in Columbus!!

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



CRIME VICTIM'S SERVICES AT THE ALASKA BOARD OF PAROLE

BY: LONZO HENDERSON, CHAIR

The Alaska Board of Parole has responsibilities to victims of crimes as defined by regulation and statute. Alaska law mandates that crime victims be given advance notice of and the opportunity to attend meetings of the parole board in which the status of the prisoner convicted of the crime against that victim is officially considered. They also have the right to comment, in writing or in person, on the proposed action of the board. The Alaska Board of Parole has authored new regulations that will allow for victim participation in all parole proceedings to include revocation hearings and special medical parole hearings.

The Alaska Board of Parole recognizes the importance of victim participation in our parole process, and our Board members are in agreement with the Ten Core Principles for Ensuring Crime Victims' Rights are Honored and Upheld in Parole/Release Processes recently developed by the APAI Crime Victim's Committee. We have worked towards expanding the role crime victims play in our parole decision making process.

Field and Institutional Probation and Parole Officers ensure victim notification and Department of Corrections staff maintain a victim's notification module to ensure victims confidentiality. Throughout our travels in the most geographically expansive state in the nation, we offer encouragement to crime victims and stress that participation in our parole process makes a great impact on the voting members of the Parole Board. Powerful and often passionate statements by crime victims leave a lasting impact on the board members and also the perpetrator in the case.

Inmates often compartmentalize their actions while serving time in prison and only after hearing first hand testimony from those directly affected will they express emotion and remorse. In Alaska, it is the belief of the Parole Board that our victim inclusive process often aides in the healing of both the crime victim and inmate.

Crime Victims' Rights Week will be celebrated nationally from April 19-25 this year. But in Alaska our 2015 celebration will occur the week of be May 2 through May 8 to take advantage of weather more suitable for outdoor events. Our kickoff event is an awards ceremony acknowledging outstanding contributions to victims of violent crime, made by Alaskans in law enforcement, victim advocacy, prosecution, the judiciary, corrections and the media. Survivors of violent crime, and other citizens who assist and support victims will be recognized. About 30 or more nominees will be recognized with a description of their contributions to victims' rights, and 5 will be selected to receive awards for Role Model, Advocacy, and Substantial Service; a Phoenix Award for a former victim who has risen to help others; and the James Gay Professionalism in the Line of Duty Award.

A more solemn event will be held at noon on Monday, May 4, at a local park where Victims for Justice has nurtured a Victim's Tree for more than 20 years. This event includes remarks by a leader in

our field, music, and an opportunity for victims and survivors in our community to place colored ribbons on the tree to represent themselves or their loved ones who have been victimized by violent crime.

The Board is very pleased to be able to coordinate with Department of Corrections Victim Service Coordinator Gail Brimmer and other parole staff to ensure that victims notification occurs and victims are aware of the right to provide victim impact statements. Gail works in the DOC's Victim Service Unit which administers the state's Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) service. VINE notifications in Alaska, under Gail's leadership have evolved through the years from letters and phone calls to now phone calls and emails along with immediate access to offender information via the VINEMobile phone app.

The number of new registrants in the VINE service has grown from 760 in 2004 to almost 11,000 in 2013. Because of Gail's dedication to crime victims across the state and to the integration of VINE service into the work of her office, Appriss recently awarded Gail an Appreciation of Service Award for the 11 years she has been involved with VINE. Ms. Brimmer stated, "It was a surprise and honor to be recognized by Appriss for our 11 years of working together to support the goal of empowering victims".

With collaborations like these that exist between the Alaska Board of Parole and the Alaska Department of Corrections we will continue to see that the rights of victims are protect and this population is served in such a way so as to reduce the trauma of victimization.



Joyce Karrfalt of Appriss Inc., on the left, presents an Appreciation of Service Award to Gail Brimmer, with the Department's Victim Services Unit.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF FORMER CHAIRMAN LLOYD A. WHITE

BY: SHERRY TATE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, PENNSYLVANIA BOARD OF PROBATION AND PAROLE

On December 28, 2014, past Chairman of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole Lloyd A. White passed away suddenly and unexpectedly. He had been a member of the Board for 13 years. Lloyd was an exemplary decision maker, with many years of experience working with offenders.

He was a long time member of APAI and supported its work through frequent attendance at and as a contributor to its trainings and workshops. He enjoyed working with his peers from around the country and the world. Early in December 2014, he hosted a delegation from the South African Department of Justice and Correctional Services to share information on Pennsylvania's parole decision making process.

Lloyd was a fierce advocate for public safety, never forgetting the victim or the potential for future victims. Yet, because he was a man of great humility and wisdom, deeply rooted in his Christian faith, he never forgot that he was dealing with human beings. He fully embraced parole as a matter of grace and mercy for offenders who were motivated to change and who took responsibility for their own behavior.

Lloyd's career in public safety began as a police officer and he later joined the Bucks County Adult Probation and Parole Department. In 1996, he was named Bucks County Probation Officer of the Year. In 2001, he began his first term with the Board, subsequently re-

confirmed in 2007 and in 2013. Governor Tom Corbett appointed Lloyd Acting Chairman in 2011 for a short period of time and permanent chairman in 2014.

His legacy is a life devoted to helping people change their lives and the lives of future generations. He believed in second chances. Upon learning of his death, parolees in his reentry program expressed their heartfelt sadness at his passing through letters to the family. They noted that though he was tough on them and held them accountable, he was always fair. One parolee mentioned that "he saved my life" and another respected him even when he was going to send him back to prison. With words of wisdom spoken with compassion, a few pointed words and direct questions, he could stop an offender in his tracks and make him see the error of his ways.

Lloyd was a unique individual, someone you meet once in a lifetime. He treated everyone equally no matter their position in life. His former co-workers at the Board remember a man of great integrity and honor, with a mischievous sense of humor, who knew that he was dealing with serious matters, but never took himself too seriously.

He is remembered for his kindness, compassion and wisdom, and his presence is greatly missed at the Board.





APAI MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: WEST VIRGINIA PAROLE BOARD

BY: CHRISTIE LOVE, MEMBER, WEST VIRGINIA PAROLE BOARD

The West Virginia Parole Board operates under the authority of W. Va. Code § 62-12-13(g). As an integral part of West Virginia's criminal justice system, the Parole Board grants the release of adult offenders. The Parole Board contributes to the protection of society by making independent, informed decisions and facilitating, as appropriate, the timely integration of offenders back into the community. The Parole Board also determines whether violations of parole conditions are serious enough to warrant an offender's return to prison. It also makes recommendations to the Governor regarding adult offenders who petition for pardons or other clemency.

The Parole Board consists of nine members appointed by the Governor, who also designates which member will serve as Chairperson. Appointments are made for overlapping terms of six years with the advice and consent of the Senate. All nine positions are full-time employees of the State of West Virginia.

The Parole Board's Chairperson, Benita F. Murphy, has been a Parole Board member for 14 years and has served in the capacity of Chairperson on two separate occasions (2004-2007 and 2014-present). Chairperson Murphy has a master's degree in criminal justice. The current Parole Board members are: Christie Love, Peggy Pope, Brenda Stucky, Stephen Svokas, Michael McCarthy, Michael Trupo, James Colombo, and Carol Greene.

The Parole Board operates independently of other divisions and is responsible to the Governor through the Cabinet Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety.

The Parole Board operates in panels of three members. The functions undertaken by the three member panels include: decisions concerning the granting of parole to eligible inmates; revocation of parole by parolees who have violated the terms and conditions of parole; and decisions relating to the final release and/or discharge from parole supervision of parolees who have successfully completed periods of supervision.

Although the Parole Board operates independently of the Division of Corrections, it works in close cooperation with that division. Once the Parole Board grants parole, it is the Division of Corrections that releases the parolee to their approved home plan. The parolee, once released, is supervised by a Division of Corrections parole officer.

The biggest challenge facing the Parole Board is the inmate crowding issue. In order to assist in this area, the Parole Board has begun a comprehensive review of its decision-making process with the goal of arriving at an evidence-based decisional approach. The Council of State Governments and the Justice Reinvestment Initiative has assisted us in this endeavor. The Parole Board is committed to refining its decisional process by developing a more structured, transparent, and consistent decision-making process. It also recognizes the necessity of adopting a set of decisional principles to which all Parole Board members subscribe when carrying out Parole Board responsibilities and functions. These principles are consistent with evidence-based best practices for parole decision-making, and support parole-related statutory requirements and legislative intent.





APAI LAUNCHES NEW AWARD

BY: KEITH HARDISON, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

This year at the 2015 Annual Training Conference, APAI will bestow its inaugural CARE Award to a deserving member organization. The CARE Award, which stands for Communication Award Recognizing Excellence in education and collaboration, was the brainchild of the APAI Public Relations/Communications Committee.

During discussions between this committee and staff from the National Parole Resource Center (NPRC) planning for the development of the NPRC Public and Stakeholder Education Toolkit, it was recognized that one of the initial challenges in some cases would be convincing a parole board or releasing authority that they needed to be proactive in engaging the key players outside of their agencies.

It was decided that a good way to provide an incentive to engage in this work would be to recognize those agencies that have done the work and done it well. Out of these discussions came the idea for an award to be given to APAI member organization at the Annual Training Conference.

To be eligible for the Award the recipient must have held an educational, public relations or outreach event or implemented or continued to produce an educational, public relations or outreach program that has served to positively inform agency key stakeholders as to their core functions, resulting in a measurable difference in the agency's perception amongst these key stakeholders within the award year.

The Award was approved by the Executive Committee and solicitations went out. Nominations were received and a winner was selected by the Public Relations Communications Committee. The winner will be announced at the APAI Awards luncheon in Columbus Ohio on May 19, 2015. As an added feature, the design and framework for the winning project or initiative, as well as all entries submitted, will be available on the APAI Website for all members to see and hopefully emulate.

APAI thanks Committee Chair Tim McDonnell and all of the members of the Public Relation/ Communications Committee for their hard work in bringing this award to fruition.

APAI WELCOMES NEW SECRETARIAT ASHLEY KOONCE



All of us at APAI appreciate and thank our interim secretariat Monique Holman for her assistance during our transitional period. We would now like to welcome our new permanent secretariat, Ashley Koonce, as she gets settled into her new role.

Ashley Koonce graduated from Sam Houston State University in 2009 with a Bachelor's Degree from the College of Business Administration with a double major in Management and Marketing.

She worked for over five years for the Texas Department of Criminal with three of those years in the Rehabilitation Programs Division. She is excited about coming to work for the Correctional Management Institute at Sam Houston State University and being the Secretariat for APAI.



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