



# Association of Paroling Authorities International

www.apaintl.org

## Inside This Issue

CANADA'S STAFF VICTIM TRAINING	2
LET'S KEEP MEMBERS INFORMED	2
CHAIRS MENTORING	3
PUPS N PALS	3
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: RHODE ISLAND	3
2016 ATC LETTER	4

## Things to Do in 2016

- 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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Greetings APAI Members:

I hope this message finds you all well and looking forward to spring!! Our 2016 Chairs' Meeting and Annual Training Conference are just around the corner and the host committee is working hard to make your visit to Daytona Beach Shores, Florida an informative and enjoyable experience.

Our Chairs' Meeting will be held on Sunday May 16th. Once again, we are honored to have Dr. Ralph Serin, last year's President Award recipient, kicking off the meeting with an update on his work related to fidelity/quality assurance of parole decision-making and Parole Board Member competencies. In addition, Richard Stroker of the National Parole Resource Center (NPRC), whom many of you have had the pleasure and privilege to work with, will be presenting on implementing NPRC's 10 Practice Targets. We are also pleased that former APAI Secretary and long-time member Jeri Costa will present to the Chairs on the impact of exposure to trauma on our personal and organizational resilience.

For the conference itself, we have secured speakers and workshop presenters on a wide variety of current and relevant parole and release topics based on membership feedback of previous conferences. Dr. Kathleen M. Heide, Professor of Criminology at the University of South Florida and a licensed psychotherapist, will provide the Keynote Address. Dr. Heide's research and professional papers have focused on adolescent homicide, family violence, personality assessment and juvenile justice. For the keynote, she will discuss the psychological and biological effects of trauma, and will share case studies.

Andrew Vonasch of Florida State University will discuss his research on decision fatigue, theorizing on the effects of reflective thinking and self-control on decision-making, empathy, addictive behaviors, moral behavior, and moral judgment. Dr. Dean Aufderheide, the statewide Director of Mental Health Services for the Florida Department of Corrections, will present on

the concept of psychopathy and understanding the issues and concerns in managing the psychopath in correctional settings.

Those in attendance will also hear from the Robina Institute on the results of its comprehensive national survey of Releasing Authorities, and Pew Charitable Trusts on Justice Reinvestment and how crime victims and releasing authorities can be partners in promoting public safety.

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, the National Parole Resource Center will be presenting a workshop for 30 successful applicants. This year the workshop will be held on Saturday May 15th. The workshop will focus on the topic of offenders with behavioral health disorders.

And of course the host committee is working hard to provide you with every opportunity to network with your peers and enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Daytona Beach Shores. An outdoor Sunday Welcome Reception with live entertainment is planned. In addition, the host committee has arranged for Tuesday evening transportation to a local outdoor entertainment venue, where conference participants will find a host of shopping and dining options. We are confident that you will thoroughly enjoy the 2016 Annual Training Conference experience and look forward to seeing you in Florida!!

Warmest regards,

Cynthia Mausser  
APAI President



## PAROLE BOARD OF CANADA'S ANNUAL STAFF TRAINING ON VICTIMS LEADS TO BETTER VICTIM SERVICE DELIVERY

BY: DANIELLE NASRALLAH, PAROLE BOARD OF CANADA

Since the 1990s, the overall involvement of victims in the criminal justice system in Canada has been steadily rising. For the Parole Board of Canada (PBC), requests from victims have tripled since then, reaching over 27,000 contacts with victims in 2014-15. This is no small feat for the PBC's Regional Communications Officers (RCOs) who play a key role in explaining the parole process and ensuring victims have a voice in it.

Every day, in offices across the country, RCOs field questions from victims, register those who wish to attend hearings and receive offender information and PBC decisions, take victims' statements and go with victims to parole hearings and provide support. They ensure a smooth and appropriate flow of information between the various federal departments in the criminal justice system, and also update victims on new laws that affect them.

As part of its commitment to enhancing victim services, the PBC holds an annual national three-day training session for RCOs. PBC received dedicated funding for this training through the Government of Canada's Federal Victims Strategy, which brings together federal efforts to give victims of crime a more effective voice in the criminal justice system. The Strategy also ensures that federal victim service workers are receiving appropriate support and training to effectively work with victims.

The RCO Training, which has been held every year since 2008, brings together RCOs, regional managers, and National Office staff and Board Members from across the country to learn about a range

of topics. Areas of discussion include the tools and techniques in working with victims, new legislation impacting victims, victim sensitivity training and dealing with people in crisis, addressing the unique needs of Aboriginal victims, vicarious trauma, regional best practices, diversity issues and trends and issues affecting victim service workers. International and renowned speakers have included Tena Pate, Chair, Florida Commission on Offender Review and Vice President of APAI, Wilma Derksen, a well-known Canadian victim advocate, and Anne Seymour, Co-founder and Senior Advisor of U.S. non-profit Justice Solutions and member of the APAI Crime Victims Committee.

In addition to national training, the PBC's six regional offices hold regular workshops on various topics relating to victims to enhance the capacity of staff to provide information and assistance to victims in Canada's vastly different communities in an effective and timely manner.

Feedback from PBC staff on the training has been very positive and they find it is an invaluable learning opportunity. In terms of evaluating the training on the level of service level provided to victims, the PBC receives less than a handful of complaints out of over 7,900 registered victims a year, which is a direct reflection of the level of professionalism, competence and sensitivity of PBC staff.

## MEMBERS: LET'S KEEP MEMBERS INFORMED

BY: MONICA MORRIS, APAI CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Congratulations to New Chairs Melinda Coonrod in Florida and Michael Wu in Oregon. APAI looks forward to working with you both. The State of Tennessee has welcomed two new board members, Zane Duncan and Roberta Nevil Kustoff. We are glad to have you as a part of our group.

We want your news; new Chair, new Board Members, new Administrators, etc. Let's keep one another up to date on changes that are happening in your area. A brief email to [monica@apaintl.org](mailto:monica@apaintl.org) is all you have to do! We would like to present your news on Facebook, as well as in our Newsletters.

What else can APAI do for you besides keeping you informed? Networking with other experts in your field of Parole is the most important thing that comes to my mind. The work we do is really unique and specialized so we are very lucky to have a professional association to assist us. The friends and colleagues you will meet here will be with you for a long time; I'm going on 16 years now! The Association is here to facilitate an ongoing exchange between

members through regular correspondence and collaborations with other agencies. We are here to provide you the latest parole research, training opportunities, our yearly annual training conference and Chairs' meeting, to name a few.

Please use our website, [www.apaintl.org](http://www.apaintl.org). It is filled with valuable information to assist you in your daily work. I think our mission says it best, "The Association of Paroling Authorities International is a global association dedicated to the accomplishment of public safety and successful reentry through training, education, standards of evidence-based research and best practices, providing peer-based technical assistance and support in collaboration with strategic partners." We also provide a mentoring program for new Chairs. Please take advantage of all APAI has to offer.

**Visit APAI at [www.apaintl.org](http://www.apaintl.org) or [www.facebook.com/apaintl](https://www.facebook.com/apaintl)  
Submit all your parole board news to [monica@apaintl.org](mailto:monica@apaintl.org)**



## CHAIRS MENTORING PROGRAM

BY: MONICA MORRIS, APAI CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

APAI in conjunction with the National Institution of Corrections (NIC) began their first ever Chair's Mentoring program last September, 2015. The Chair's training curriculum added the mentoring component at the request of APAI. The training was held in Aurora, Colorado and I was happy to have been selected as a mentor for this project. After being the Chair of the Florida Parole Commission I felt it was time to give back to someone the lessons that I learned during my tenure as Chair. I was blessed to have two very smart, motivated and capable women to mentor, you know who you are! To say that you both have made my job very easy would be an understatement. It is amazing the talent we have serving in our leadership positions all around the world. If you were a part of this project, it's time to hear back from you about your experiences. Mentees, has having a mentor helped you in developing your project concept paper? Were you able to accomplish what you set out to do last September?

The goal of the mentoring program was to foster a supportive environment for the personal and professional growth of leaders with newly appointed leaders of paroling and releasing authorities through a structured program that would match seasonal leaders with newly appointed leaders based upon individual needs, agency structure and other pertinent criteria to provide meaningful mentoring services. Did we accomplish our goal? There will be more to tell in the future newsletters but we need to hear back from you. Mentor's and Mentee's we need your input. Please share how the experience has worked for you. I am anxious to hear back from you, [monica@apaintl.org](mailto:monica@apaintl.org)

As I get your feedback I will pass your comments to the Professional Development Committee for further action and/or follow-up. Thanks you all so much for your participation in this project.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: THE RHODE ISLAND PAROLE BOARD

BY: LAURA PISATURO, CHAIRPERSON, RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF PAROLE

Rhode Island is one of four states selected through a competitive application to participate in the learning collaborative offered by the National Governors Association (NGA) and National Parole Resource Center (NPRC). Our core representative team attended a robust two-day summit in Washington, D.C. in November 2015, where we identified several strategies and objectives to address with our 'home team' of parole board members, corrections staff, governor's office and other important stakeholders.

On April 12, 2016, NGA and NPRC leaders met with the Rhode Island team in an all day workshop to prioritize strategies and identify action steps to improve parole practices. The workshop focused on the effective use of risk assessment tools in parole board decision making, modernizing our parole guidelines, exploring alternative responses to parole violations and promoting transparency of the parole decision-making process through a proactive communica-

## PUPS N PALS

AN INNOVATIVE REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Pups N Pals was initiated by the West Volusia Kennel Club at Tomoka Correctional Institution (Work Camp) and joined by Halifax Humane Society and the Orlando VA with our "Paws of Freedom" offshoot program, where we give companion dogs to veterans who suffer with PTSD, depression or anxiety.

Twelve dogs spend seven weeks training with the inmates to learn basic obedience, 'heel', 'sit', 'down', and 'come' commands. They also do basic Rally and Agility training. The goal is to place healthy, spayed/neutered dogs in forever homes, as well as to give inmates skills that they list on their resumes.

All dogs are given the AKC Good Citizen Test, and upon passing, the trainers are presented with an AKC certificate noting that they have passed. The new owner who adopts a dog is offered a free seven-week training course by the West Volusia Kennel Club or Halifax Humane Society, in order to become familiar with what the dog has been taught.

For further information about the program or adopting a dog, contact: Allyn Weigel, (386)734-7923, or Halifax Humane Society, (386)274-4703, or Tomoka Correctional Institution Work Camp, (386)254-2676. You can also connect with our Facebook page via [www.prisonpups.org](http://www.prisonpups.org).

**PUPS N PALS IS AVAILABLE FOR TOURS  
DURING THE 2016 ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE.**

**VISIT [WWW.APAINTL.ORG](http://WWW.APAINTL.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION  
OR VISIT [WWW.CMITONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.CMITONLINE.ORG) TO RESERVE A SPOT TODAY.**

tions plan. All strategies centered on the importance of data analysis to inform outcomes. Final recommendations are expected to be submitted to Governor Raimondo by September.

Attendance included six of our seven parole board members (who serve part-time and who dedicated time away from their other professional/personal obligations), key parole board staff, ranking members of the governor's staff, director of corrections, A.T. Wall and important members of his community corrections and research staff as well as the dean of justice studies at Roger Williams University.

The timing of this all-day workshop could not be better. Rhode Island is wrapping up a year-long involvement with a Justice Rein-

**Continued on page 5**

Greetings

from

FLORIDA

DAYTONA BEACH

Greetings from sunny Florida!

Now is the perfect time to make plans to attend this year's APAI Annual Training Conference, 'The Future of Parole: Waves of Change, Oceans of Opportunity', being held May 15-18th in sunny Daytona Beach.

This year's conference topics and workshops were selected specifically to meet the training needs you, our APAI members, told us you wanted and we are excited to offer you an opportunity to learn from some of the most knowledgeable and well-respected experts in the parole and public safety industry!

This conference also provides us the opportunity to recognize the outstanding efforts of our fellow professionals during our annual awards luncheon where we'll announce the winners of the 2016 Ben Baer, Vincent O'Leary, CARE, President's and Community Service Awards.

To make sure the conference has a good balance of work and play, we've planned some fun social events too! Sunday evening's Havana Nights Welcome Reception will be held poolside and give you a chance to reconnect with APAI members from around the globe while enjoying savory Cuban cuisine and the signature sights and sounds of salsa.

On Tuesday night, you'll have a chance to explore the bars, restaurants and stores of nearby Ocean Walk Shoppes. A chartered bus will provide continuous transportation between The Shores Resort & Spa and Ocean Walk Shoppes from 6-10 pm, which will allow you to dine and shop at your leisure.

Between conference sessions, make sure to check out the silent auction to bid on the unique international wares donated by APAI members and stop by the vendors' area to discover some of the industry's newest products and services.

Interested in taking a tour? On Wednesday, you'll have the opportunity to learn all about the Prison Pals & Pups program at nearby Tomoka Correctional Institute where inmates gain valuable life skills while training adoptable dogs. Register early because this tour has limited spaces and will fill up fast!

If you need additional conference, lodging or registration information, or you want to sign up for the tour, click the button below to be directed to the APAI Training Conference website.

We look forward to seeing all of you in Daytona Beach!



-Your Conference Planning Committee





## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: THE RHODE ISLAND PAROLE BOARD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

vestment Initiative through the Council of State Governments Justice Center, Pew Charitable Trusts and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The Parole Board made some recommendations in the areas of medical parole and parole revocation and stand ready to inform the governor’s office and legislature on these important considerations. In addition, our Board was recently awarded technical assistance through BJA’s National Technical and Training Assistance Center (BJA-NTTAC) to assess and make recommendations for our risk assessment tool and its meaningful integration with our release guidelines.

We are very excited about these parallel initiatives and feel confident that they will provide essential support to strengthen our efforts to enhance transparency, professionalism and consistency in fulfilling our public mission.

*The mission of the RI Parole Board is to enhance public safety, contribute to the prudent use of public resources and consider the safe and successful re-entry of offenders through discretionary parole.*

Visit the Rhode Island Parole Board online at:  
[www.paroleboard.ri.gov](http://www.paroleboard.ri.gov)



*Front row: Chairperson Laura Pisaturo and Vice-Chair Victoria Almeida  
Back row: Parole Board Members Dr. Mary Archibald, Dr. Anne Nolan, Dr. Jorge Armesto, Major Tom Verdi and Board Administrator Matt Degnan.  
[Not shown: Member Doris De Los Santos]*

## Executive Committee

**President**  
Cynthia Mausser  
Ohio

**Past President**  
Jeffrey L. Peterson  
Minnesota

**Vice President**  
Tena Pate  
Florida

**Chief Administrative Officer**  
Monica Morris  
Florida

**Secretary**  
Dan Fetsco  
Wyoming

**Treasurer**  
David Blumberg  
Maryland

**Northeastern USA**  
Matt Degnan  
Rhode Island

**Western USA**  
Lonzo Henderson  
Alaska

**International Section**  
Renée Collette  
Canada

**Central USA**  
Danielle LaCost  
Wisconsin

**Southern USA**  
John Felts  
Arkansas

## Contact APAI

Correctional Management Institute of Texas | George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center  
Sam Houston State University | Huntsville, TX 77341-2296

Phone: 877-318-APAI | Fax: 936-294-1671 | E-mail: [info@apaintl.org](mailto:info@apaintl.org)

[www.apaintl.org](http://www.apaintl.org) | **Facebook** [www.facebook.com/apaintl](https://www.facebook.com/apaintl) | **Blogger** [www.apaintl.blogspot.com](http://www.apaintl.blogspot.com)  
**Join the APAI Forum** [www.apaintl.org/forum](http://www.apaintl.org/forum)

