



# Association of Paroling Authorities International

www.apaintl.org

## Inside This Issue

GRANT WRITER AD	2
EFFECTIVE REHAB	2
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT	3
INAUGURAL CARE AWARD	4
PAROLE REVOCATION RESEARCH REVIEW	4
MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS	7

## Things to Do in 2018

- Renew APAI Membership
- Serve on an APAI Committee
- Urge a fellow organization to join APAI
- Make plans to attend the 2018 Chairs Meeting and Annual Training Conference in Incline Village, Nevada April 22–25, 2018

## Membership Fees

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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Greetings APAI Members,

Happy New Year! I hope you were able to enjoy the holiday season and took some time to reflect on all that you accomplished in 2017. It is hard for me to believe that it is 2018 and I am about to serve my last 6 months as APAI President. The past 4 years have gone by quickly, and it is my sincerest hope that I have served APAI well during my tenure as President. As I look forward to the next several months, I can't help but immediately think about our Annual Training Conference (ATC).

Even though it has been unseasonably cold here in Ohio, spring is fast approaching and so is our ATC. This year, the conference and annual Chairs' meeting will be held on April 22-25th. We are excited to visit Incline Village, Nevada, the selected site, and are confident that the Nevada host committee is working hard to provide an informative and robust program. This year's theme, Best Practices: An Investment in Successful Parole aptly describes the recognition by our field that the outcomes of those we release are a reflection of our decision-making skills, and that becoming more involved in implementing practices that promote successful outcomes is good public policy. Paroling Authorities are now routinely engaged in seeking out best practices to improve their decision-making processes and enhance the chances of successful offender reentry. The term "best practices" implies that quality parole decisions are informed on the basis of the best available research and evidence. As research in this field progresses, it becomes increasingly important for Paroling Authorities to collaborate and

learn from each other as an international community through APAI. The ATC provides a perfect platform to bring together Paroling Authorities from across the globe to share diverse perspectives and practices. This year's theme will focus on how best practices can and should be implemented to promote successful offender outcomes.

In addition to the conference and training agenda, our yearly Executive Committee elections will also be held at the ATC. This year, the offices of President and Treasurer are up for election, so please consider nominating a member for these positions. It is so important that each APAI member is engaged in the process of electing the leadership of our association. It is not too soon to start planning for the ATC, so please visit our website for details, and look for additional information to come in the months ahead.

I hope to see you all in Nevada!

Warm regards,

Cynthia Mausser  
APAI President



# APAI SEEKS GRANT WRITER

BY: MONICA MORRIS, APAI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

APAI is currently seeking an individual who has an interest and/or experience in writing grants. The Association is looking for additional sources of income for the future of the Association. It is our hope to be able to provide opportunities for our membership that we can not currently offer because of our budget constraints. We currently operate under a grant and we have found that to be very helpful in fulfilling our mission. Our goal would continue to be the promotion of best practices in the area of parole.

This will be a great opportunity for a self-motivated, independent person, who would have the ability to work from their home. This person would be working in conjunction

with the Executive Committee, our Secretariat Ashley Koonce and myself as Executive Director. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested please contact Joe Pacholski at [KWXP@msn.com](mailto:KWXP@msn.com) or myself at [monica@apaintl.org](mailto:monica@apaintl.org). We are always available for questions so please reach out if you have any thoughts.



## National Crime Victims' Rights Week

April 8-14, 2018



[www.VictimsofCrime.org](http://www.VictimsofCrime.org)

## EFFECTIVE REHABILITATION INVOLVES THE VICTIM OF CRIME, OFFENDER AND COMMUNITY

BY: THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Cognizant that millions of people throughout the world suffer harm as a result of crime and the abuse of power, and that the rights of these victims have not been adequately recognized; on 29th November 1985, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power. The Declaration is based on the philosophy that victims should be adequately recognized, and treated with respect, for their dignity. Victims are entitled to access to the mechanisms of justice, and prompt redress for the harm, and loss, suffered. They are also entitled to receive adequate specialized assistance in dealing with emotional trauma, and other problems, caused by the impact of victimization.

To this end, in 2012, the South African Department of Correctional Services (DCS) introduced the Victim-Offender Dialogue (VOD) programme to address the need for the trilogy of the victim of crime, community stakeholders and the offender to face each other with a view to building safe

and secure communities and prevent re-offending. This is a developmental project in a developmental state. A VOD is part of the broad field of Restorative Justice. Restorative Justice is motivated by the following factors:

- Crime is a violation of people and relationships;
- Crime creates obligations to make things right;
- Justice involves the victim, the offender and the community; and
- Justice seeks solutions that promote repair, reconciliation and reassurance.

A successful VOD leads to the victim understanding how, why, when and by whom the crime was committed. It results in the offender understanding the material, and emotional, harm caused by the crime, and seeks ways to repair that harm through, inter-alia, sincere apology. The dialogue must heal both the victim, and offender. The dialogue must

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: TIM GRAHAM

BY: MONICA MORRIS, APAI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The New Zealand Parole Board recently welcomed Tim Graham as its new Communications Manager.

Tim has an extensive journalism background, having worked in the UK for Al Jazeera English and Reuters. Closer to home, he specialised in crime and justice reporting for New Zealand's public radio broadcaster,

RNZ. This position brought Tim into regular contact with the New Zealand Parole Board, which permitted him to attend several hearings in person over the years.

"As a reporter, I found parole to be a rich vein of stories of genuine public interest. Being able to give an insight on the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders eligible for parole is vital for public understanding," said Tim.

When an opportunity arose to run the Board's communications arm, Tim was very interested.

"The open way in which the Board engages with journalists, and the public, was one of the big drawcards of the role for me."

The New Zealand Parole Board never comments publicly

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## INAUGURAL CARE AWARD WINNER ENCOURAGES NOMINATIONS

BY: THE NEW ZEALAND PAROLE BOARD

The first ever winner of an APAI award for excellence in education and collaboration is encouraging member organisations to submit a nomination for this year's prize.

The New Zealand Parole Board was first to win the Communication Award Recognizing Excellence (CARE) in 2015. The accolade was given for the Board's media education programme, which familiarises journalists with the parole process by way of discussion and off-the-record observation of some hearings before any reporting is permitted.

"Having a reporter observe the Board in action offers an important insight to how a decision is made. The reporter will also see how well-prepared Board members are – each one arrives for a hearing day having read all the background information on the offenders appearing," said the New Zealand Parole Board's manager Alistair Spierling.

Journalists also observe the Board members' detailed questioning of the offender and any supporters, as the panel

assesses whether or not the prisoner can be released on parole.

"More than 70 New Zealand journalists are currently accredited to cover hearings, having been through our media education programme," said the New Zealand Parole Board's manager Alistair Spierling.

"It is fair to say we have a very positive relationship with the New Zealand media. Many reporters will check their facts with us before running a story."

The Board obviously has no sway over the final item that is produced, but finds that journalists it works closely with tend to produce more balanced copy.

"The media education programme helps to lift the air of mystery around parole, so the public (via the media) can

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## PAROLE REVOCATION RESEARCH REVIEW

BY: DAN FETSCO

As I am writing this article, I have finished my first semester of full-time teaching criminal justice classes at the University of Wyoming and am busily preparing for the spring semester, which starts in another week or so. I have also continued my research into "street time" issues for parolees who are revoked, and whether parole boards and releasing authorities can credit the parolee with some, none, or all of the time spent in the community. Along with the research, I am planning on writing a scholarly article that is not only a comprehensive review of the use of street time by releasing authorities everywhere, at the very least in the United States, but that argues for greater credit for street time for technical violators of parole as a way to reduce prison overcrowding. Again, this exact issue was part of criminal justice reform legislation in Wyoming that failed last year, after having started out with great promise. But hope springs eternal, and I am trying to keep the idea alive.

and federal regulations with regard to credit for street time while on parole, and am also reviewing as much scholarly literature as I can find on the subject. Having access to the University library is a nice benefit of my new job, and I have found a few somewhat recent articles that I thought worth mentioning in my column. In "Do Parole Technical Violators Pose a Safety Threat? An Analysis of Prison Misconduct" (2015), Erin Orrick and Robert Morris reviewed the records of males incarcerated in a large southern state to determine the risk technical violators would pose to public safety by exploring their likelihood of committing prison disciplinary violations. Based upon records of offenders returned to prison for technical violations, technical violators were found to be significantly less likely to engage in any form of prison misconduct than offenders who had committed new offenses. I found the article, which was published in *Crime & Delinquency*, encouraging and supportive of the

At this point, I am researching the respective state statutes

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## CONTINUED: PAROLE REVOCATION RESEARCH REVIEW

BY: MONICA MORRIS, APAI CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

idea that long-term incarceration of technical violators of parole is not necessary and adds to prison overcrowding.

Another article that grabbed my attention was Paul Larkin's "Clemency, Parole, Good-Time Credits, and Crowded Prisons: Reconsidering Early Release" (2013), published in the Georgetown Journal of Law & Public Policy. Larkin paints a rather bleak picture of the future of parole, stating it is "unlikely that parole will resurface in the form widely used in the twentieth century." Larkin adds, "Returning parole to its predominant place in corrections would require legislators to admit that they made a mistake in abandoning parole or to confess that they are rebirthing a policy previously thrown away. Newer legislators could do so by blaming their predecessors, but politicians who are long in the tooth will not have that excuse."

I also found Larkin's article quite interesting, but I disagree with his view of parole and its potential for growth. Larkin concludes his article by advocating for expanding inmate

good time as a way to facilitate early release of inmates from prison, however, he does not address the parole revocation process and what to do with an offender's street time when his or her parole is revoked.

I also found an opinion piece entitled "The Practical Case for Parole for Violent Offenders," written by Marc Howard and appearing in the New York Times on August 8, 2017. Howard is the director of the Prisons and Justice Initiative at Georgetown, and in his article, he argues for the return of discretionary parole – for violent offenders as well as lower-risk offenders. While I may not use this particular article as part of what I am writing, I found it refreshing and a nice contrast to Larkin's view of the future of parole. While there may be those in academia who may not necessarily view parole through the same lens as those of us in APAI, there continues to be strong voices from the scholarly world that support the expansion of parole and the work of the dedicated professionals in the field. After all, hope springs eternal.

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## CONTINUED: MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

BY: MONICA MORRIS, APAI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

on its decisions, but is legally required to release the written outcomes to the media on request. Edited decisions are provided to journalists, once the offender and any registered victims have received their copies. The inexperience and turnover of reporters in modern newsrooms present some of the biggest challenges in Tim's role.

"Parole can be a very jargon-filled, acronym-heavy world, so guiding journalists through the language and process is a key part of what I do."

Keeping a steady hand on the release of information is also very important.

"Some journalists keep meticulous diaries of upcoming parole hearings, others have very close links with offenders and/or registered victims, so it's crucial that we carefully manage the information flow," said Tim.

In 2011, Tim was named New Zealand's Individual Radio Journalist of the Year for his coverage of two particularly high-profile parole cases. He says the award would not have been possible without a strong working relationship with the New Zealand Parole Board.

"My focus now is on continuing to evolve the Board's media relationships, to ensure journalists understand the nuances of parole," said Tim.

In the year to July 2017, the New Zealand Parole Board saw 4,711 offenders and held 7,739 hearings both inside prisons and by video link.

We welcome Tim to his new role as well as welcoming him as one of our new APAI members. We look forward to working with you.

## CONTINUED: EFFECTIVE REHABILITATION

BY: THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

be cathartic, frank, honest and sincere, and lead to closure. The dialogue, when taken to a public platform, must be of educational value to the public.

The healing paradigm of the VOD has some of the following characteristics:

- Caring, non-judgmental acceptance of the paradigm of the VOD must have humanistic value (Ubuntu);
- Building support and emotional connection;
- Generating hope;
- Talking from the heart;
- Being real;
- Creating a sense of safety.

Human life is precious and sacred. Crime is, undoubtedly, appalling. Crime devalues us. It robs us of our dignity, and

deprives us of humanity. We must all remain steadfast in our rejection of crime, no matter what the circumstances. The objective of Corrections is to re-engineer a new person, who becomes a responsible citizen. VODs aim to strengthen the current rehabilitation, and reintegration, programmes of the Department of Corrections. It places the victim at the centre of the corrections process. Through the VODs, Parole Boards and other structures, the Department is working towards creating more opportunities for people to join the fight against crime and re-build a safer South Africa.

## CONTINUED: INAUGURAL CARE AWARD

BY: THE NEW ZEALAND PAROLE BOARD



understand how the structured decision-making process is not a coin-toss,” said Alistair.

“There are many ways parole authorities can gain the trust of the media, and the first is to work with it – not against it. Help the media, encourage reporters to observe Boards

in action. The Nevada Board’s recent handling of the O.J. Simpson hearing was a brave but positive decision,” he said.

media programme acknowledged by APAI in 2015 was a real honour.

“Recognition like this on the world stage is a tangible endorsement of the hard work that has gone into forging the Board’s media relationships over many years.”

The CARE award was the brainchild of the APAI Public Relations/Communications Committee. It was awarded to the Florida Commission on Offender Review in 2016 but was not presented in 2017 due to insufficient nominations. It is the hope of the Public Relations/Communications Committee that the award can be awarded in 2018.

For the New Zealand Parole Board to have its pioneering



## BENEFITS OF APAI MEMBERSHIP

BY: HARVEY CENAICO, CHAIRMAN, PAROLE BOARD OF CANADA

As one of the newest International Vice Presidents for APAI, I am excited to talk to you about the benefits of being a member. January 2018 marks the end of my tenure as Chairperson of the Parole Board of Canada. For eight and half years I led the Board through various modernization reforms, including implemented a fully electronic case management system, intensified our risk assessment framework and focused on key issues such as ensuring victims have a role in the parole process.

Being a member of APAI has enabled me to share my experiences with my colleagues around the world and continue

to contribute to improving the parole process while supporting public safety, which has been a career-long passion of mine.

An organization such as APAI enables the free-flow of information, the exchange of ideas and the ability to network with colleagues near and far. I encourage all of you to reach out to potential new members in 2018, so that they too can enjoy our Association and the many perks of being a member.

### Executive Committee

	President <b>Cynthia Mausser</b> <i>Ohio</i>	Executive Director <b>Monica Morris</b> <i>Florida</i>	
Past President <b>Jeffrey L. Peterson</b> <i>Minnesota</i>	Vice President <b>David Blumberg</b> <i>Maryland</i>	Secretary <b>Danielle LaCost</b> <i>Wisconsin</i>	Treasurer <b>Joe Pacholski</b> <i>Washington DC</i>
Northeastern USA <b>Matt Degnan</b> <i>Rhode Island</i>	Western USA <b>Lonzo Henderson</b> <i>Alaska</i>	Central USA <b>Jonathan Ogletree</b> <i>Kansas</i>	Southern USA <b>Benita Murphy</b> <i>West Virginia</i>
International Section <b>Renée Collette</b> <i>Canada</i>	International Section <b>Harvey Cenaiko</b> <i>Canada</i>	International Section <b>Thando Tsetsewa</b> <i>Africa</i>	International Section <b>Martin Jones</b> <i>Europe</i>

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