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TO-DO IN 2024

- Renew Membership
- Serve on a Committee
- Recruit Fellows to APAI
- Make Plans to Attend the 2024 Annual Training Conference in Bellevue, Washington in May 2024

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

*fees on a per year basis.

From the President

Greetings and welcome to 2025!

I hope you are looking forward to a productive year ahead as we embark on the important work we do. It is at times like this that we are called upon to be the best we can be. Understanding that some of us have faced changes, challenges and barriers, APAI and it’s leadership is committed to doing all we can to bring you tools, research and resources to aid in this demanding work.

Preparations are well underway for the 2025 APAI Annual Training Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. We hope that you are able to attend this year’s conference, May 18-21, 2025. The Professional Development committee has been hard at work putting together a highly educational program agenda for the conference and we are excited to share it will soon be ready for you to review.

Each year, our membership has the opportunity to elect multiple positions on the APAI Executive Committee. This year’s conference will host the election for the offices of Vice President and Secretary. As with every year, there will be the opportunity to honor those in the field who have made outstanding contributions with the various APAI Awards. The number of submissions over the last few years has grown and we are looking forward to even more this year.

I encourage each of you to con-

sider how you can best serve APAI and your profession; whether it is running for or nominating someone for office, serving on a committee, serving as a mentor, contributing to the newsletter or nominating a co-worker for an award. APAI, continues to grow, bond with our partners and expands our ability to serve our members.

I am looking forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting new colleagues in Atlanta. The host committee has some special things in store for us and I can assure you, you do not want to miss out on the education, fellowship and fun!

Best regards,

Jonathan Ogletree

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Joanne Blanchard, Chairperson, Parole Board of Canada

by: Marie-Pier Bigonnesse, A/Strategic Advisor, Parole Board of Canada

Joanne Blanchard was appointed as the Chairperson of the Parole Board of Canada (PBC) in June 2024.

In the Spring of 2024, Ms. Blanchard performed the administrative functions of the Regional Vice-Chairperson for the PBC's Quebec Region and was officially designated in that role in May 2024. She has been a PBC Board member since October 2022.

Joanne is in her first year as a member of APAI, as the Chairperson of the Parole Board of Canada (the Board or PBC). While she is unable to attend the 2025 conference, she is looking forward to working with colleagues from the APAI throughout the year.

The Board strongly believes in engaging with international partners; face to face and other wise. The PBC has recently engaged with jurisdictions from Kenya, South Africa, England and Wales and Japan to name a few and they also have a long history of working with many jurisdictions in the US.

Ms. Blanchard's experience in decision-making and adjudication has fueled her passion for public safety and justice, driving her continued involvement in this field. Joanne's journey has now come full circle, starting with her role in federal institutional disciplinary courts where she upheld justice and accountability, to now serving on the Parole Board where she focuses on the safe and timely reintegration of their population into society. These early experiences laid a strong foundation for her current work, emphasizing fairness and public safety. This progression highlights Joanne's commitment to justice and community safety, having worked in both public safety and refugee protection, she is dedicated to upholding the highest standards of justice and community well-being.

Joanne has extensive experience as a decision maker at the Parole Board, but also in other federal administrative



Joanne Blanchard, Chairperson, Parole Board of Canada

tribunals, which has equipped her with the skills to evaluate cases thoroughly and fairly, ensuring the board's decisions uphold the highest standards of quality. She possesses an unwavering commitment to creating a safer community, which drives her efforts to implement effective policies and procedures. These experiences collectively enhance Ms. Blanchard's leadership, guiding the board towards making quality decisions that prioritize public safety and successful reintegration.

When asked about the value she sees in APAI involve-

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ment, she states, “The APAI is truly the organization that bonds decision-makers from around the world. Being able to share common issues and learn about best practices in this format is exceptional. Not only are members able to attend a yearly training event, but they also get to communicate and share information broadly during the year. This is a membership that I value as a new Chairperson.”

When discussing a vision for the field, Ms. Blanchard highlighted the importance of public safety. “Public Safety is the primary concern in all decisions we make at the Parole Board of Canada. Therefore, as the Chairperson, it is extremely important to me that our Board members and staff have the best tools and training at their disposal to do their work.” In order to achieve the Board’s mandate, she states they must also foster a healthy workplace. That is why, she has established priorities for the Board to be focused on 1) Quality Decision-Making, 2) Organizational Culture and 3) Operational Stability.

“This will allow the Board to align its resources and procedures to foster harmonized program support and consistently high-quality independent decision-making

that abides by legislative requirements, relevant jurisprudence and responds to the risk and needs of specific populations. Promoting an inclusive, diverse workplace culture that values individual contributions, fosters teamwork and supports the recruitment and retention of talent while navigating the changing nature of administrative tribunals is very important to me as the leader of the organization.”

Joanne Blanchard brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to justice and we are proud to welcome her and highlight her accomplishments and her vision. Her career spans over two decades, marked by significant contributions to the fields of public safety as well as immigration and refugee protection. Throughout her career, Ms. Blanchard has been recognized for her leadership and innovation and received various organizational Awards which highlighted her contributions to leadership and innovation.

Ms. Blanchard holds a Bachelor of Laws from Université de Moncton and a Bachelor of Psychology from McGill University.

CALL FOR ARTICLES

Do you have news, advice or a story of interest to the Paroling Profession?

**Submit your stories, photos and news to Ashley Koonce at
koonce@apaintl.org**

The APAI Newsletter is available year-round at www.apaintl.org

HONORING A LIFE AND CAREER

Dr. Ralph Serin Training Boardroom Dedication

by: Marie-Pier Bigonnesse, A/Strategic Advisor, Parole Board of Canada

Following the passing of Dr. Ralph Serin in November 2023, the Parole Board of Canada (PBC) wanted to honour his life, career and outstanding contributions to the PBC and to the field of risk assessment and conditional release by renaming its' training room as the "Dr. Ralph Serin Training Boardroom". This is a testament to the profound influence Ralph had on the Board's workplace and in the lives of many at the PBC.

Dr. Serin worked with the PBC for decades in various capacities. His research is imbedded in the Board's policies and practices in various areas, such as our training and policy frameworks. In 2009, Dr. Serin developed and subsequently refined the Structured Decision-Making Framework (SDMF), which both the PBC and other paroling authorities around the world continue to use.

Dr. Serin was dedicated to training and continuous learning and provided risk assessment training to the PBC Board members and staff for over 25 years. As he spent many hours in this Boardroom, renaming it in his honour ensures his legacy lives on at the PBC.

His voice was one that was respected by all, and his legacy will continue to inspire the training sessions delivered in the training room that now bears his name.



Pictured above: Sylvie Blanchet, Executive Vice-Chairperson, and Daryl Churney, Deputy Chairperson, hold the plaque with Dr. Serin's picture and words to describe the person he was, which now hangs in the Dr. Ralph Serin Training Boardroom.



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More information about The Parole Board of Canada is available online at
www.canada.ca/en/parole-board.html

#CAPTUREDCOLLABORATIONS

Highlighting Member Connections through APAI

by: Ashley Koonce, Executive Director, APAI

Michigan Parole Board Members Adrienne Van Langevelde and Tim Flanagan provided a presentation and panel discussion on the Structured Decision-Making Framework tool (SDMF) at the 2024 Annual Field Operation Administration Supervisor’s Conference for the Michigan Department of Corrections. The SDMF is the Michigan Parole Board’s parole decision-making model that was implemented in 2020, with specialized technical

assistance provided from the National Institute of Corrections. Board Members Van Langevelde and Flanagan provided an overview of the SDMF, the technical assistance process that guided its implementation, why it is important to have a “roadmap” for making release decisions, and they answered questions about overall Parole Board decision-making.



The Wyoming Board of Parole visited the Washington State Indeterminate Sentence Review Board to observe and discuss implementation of the Structured Decision-Making Framework (SDMF) in release decisions

made by Washington. A special note of appreciation to the National Institute of Corrections for sponsoring the visits.

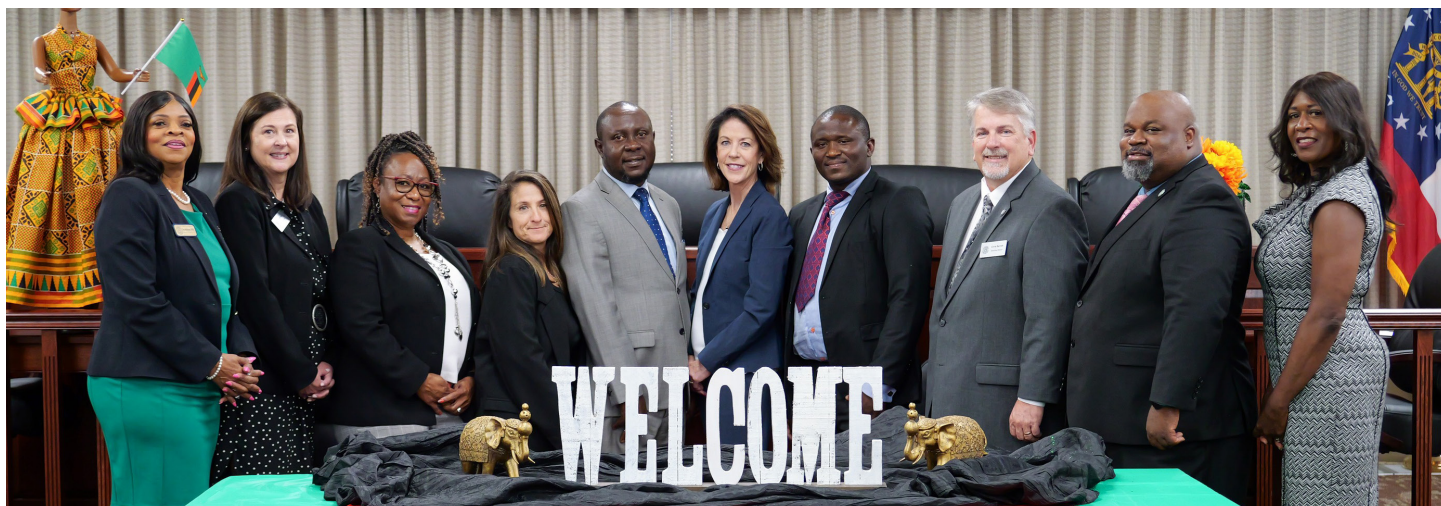


Pictured from left to right, Jill Getty - WA State Board Member, Joe Brigham - WY Parole Board Coordinator, Corey McNally - WA State Board Member, Jeff Lamm - WY Deputy Director, Sally Meeker - WY Board Member, Kecia Rongen - Chair WA Board, Elyse Balmert - WA State Board Member, Kathy Wright - WY Chair, Scott Gaulke - WY Board Member.

GEORGIA BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES

Hosts Zambia Parole Chairman and Secretary

by: Steve Hayes, Office of Communications Directory, Georgie State Board of Pardons and Paroles



The Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles hosted the top parole officials from the South-Central African country of Zambia last September. Zambia National Parole Board Chairman Lloyd Chilundika and Secretary Clive Njamba contacted the Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI) wanting to learn more about how parole works in the United States and the State of Georgia answered that call.

Georgia Vice Chair Meg Heap welcomed the Zambia of-

ficials on their first day to the states and Atlanta. “Being able to host the National Parole Board of Zambia is a great honor for us and the state of Georgia,” said Heap.

Executive Director of Parole Chris Barnett says it was an opportunity for Georgia to assist a country wanting to improve their parole process. “We know that the Georgia Parole Board is well respected nationally and represents sound decision-making and is the perfect representative to show international paroling authorities how parole in the U.S. works and works well,” said Barnett.

Chairman Chilundika deemed the visit successful. “Our meetings with the Georgia Parole Board Members and Executive Director Chris Barnett and his team were extremely beneficial. We could not have selected a better U.S. state to learn more about parole processes,” said Chilundika.

Georgia Parole Board Chairman David Herring and Board Member Joyette



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Holmes also met with the Zambia officials. “We were able to show the value of information when considering parole cases,” said Holmes.

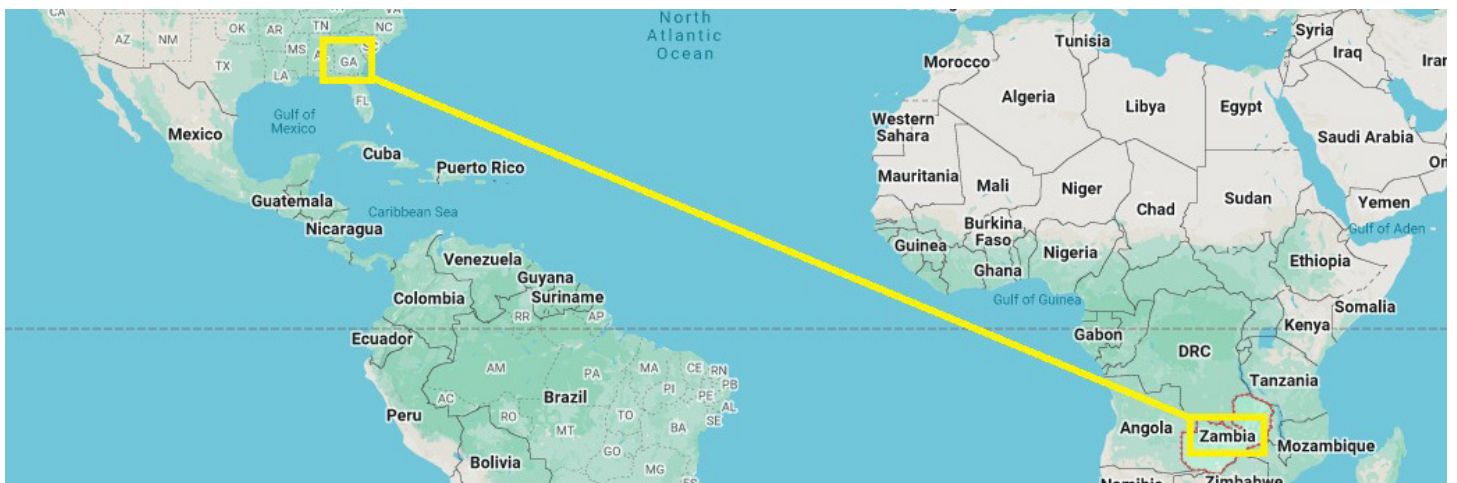
The Zambia officials also met with leaders from the Georgia Department of Corrections and the Georgia Department of Community Supervision. “The information sharing and collaboration between the Georgia Parole Board and their stakeholders to include law enforcement, victims and the public is impressive. It is something I believe we need to do in Zambia to be more ef-

fective,” said Chilundika.

“One thing we want our Zambia counterparts to take with them is the necessity of teamwork among agencies. All three of these agencies are working together to enhance public safety for all Georgians,” said Barnett.

To view the agency press release on the visit, visit:

<https://pap.georgia.gov/press-releases/2024-09-27/georgia-board-hosts-zambia-parole>





Join Us for a Free Webinar!
Identifying Drivers of Absconding

-  Wednesday, April 9, 2025
-  3:00 PM - 4:30 PM (EST)
-  Register Online At:
<https://tinyurl.com/ewr2ukev>

APAI is committed to our collaborations and we are excited to share an invitation to membership to the upcoming CJI webinar, “Identifying Drivers of Absconding,” on April 9, 2025.

During this webinar, the CJI team will facilitate a conversation about findings from their recent absconding study. This work is the culmination of several years of research aimed at creating a comprehensive picture of the factors leading to absconding and ways to improve engagement with individuals on supervision to reduce the risk of absconding.

Key Takeaways:

- Insights from data review and focus groups across Montana and Florida
- Areas of opportunity for addressing absconding across the country

APAI AWARD NOMINATIONS OPEN

Submit Nominations Online Today!

by: Ashley Koonce, Executive Director, APAI

Working in the world of parole is a maze of complexity and demands. Our association has many unsung heroes among us, quietly doing amazing work. It's time to give them the recognition they deserve!

Our Annual Awards, are a highlight of the Annual Conference. It is such an exciting opportunity for our incredible members to surprise and cheer each other on as they receive well-deserved accolades. It's an event you don't want to miss!

But to make it great - we need our members' help to spot these hidden gems. Our President has issued a challenge in this newsletter, urging all of us to be the heroes who shout from the rooftops about the stellar work happening in our parole community.

Receiving recognition from your peers is such an honor, and parole is no different. Every year, colleagues in our

field do some seriously amazing work, but they don't always get the accolades they deserve. We know there are loads of deserving candidates out there and they are your co-workers and colleagues. We challenge each of you to submit a nomination for at least one of the following award categories: Ben Baer, Vincent O'Leary, Renee Collette International Excellence, or CARE (Communication Award Recognizing Excellence in Education and Collaboration). It's a golden chance to give a shoutout to our friends and colleagues for the awesome things they do. Even if you're not submitting a nomination yourself, please pass the information along to your board members and stakeholders.

Let's turn the spotlight on those who make our field shine. Nominate now and let's make this year's awards the best yet!

2025 ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE



• May 18 – 21, 2025 • Atlanta, Georgia •

• REGISTRATION OPEN • VISIT WWW.APAINTL.ORG TO REGISTER AND BOOK YOUR STAY •

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