

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT								
			٠	۰	٠	0	٠	
2019 TRAINING CON	FEI	REI	NC	Ë	ì		3	
2018-2019 AWARD RE	CH	PΙΕ	NT	S			4	

### TO-DO IN 2019

- RENEW APAI MEMBERSHIP
- ☐ SERVE ON APAI COMMITTEE
- ☐ URGE FELLOWS TO JOIN APAI
- MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE
  2020 ANNUAL TRAINING
  CONFERENCE IN NASHVILLE
  APRIL 4 APRIL 8, 2020

#### MEMBERSHIP FEES\*

INDIVIDUAL	\$65
ORGANIZATIONAL	
(UP TO 8 MEMBERS)	\$375
(9 TO 13 MEMBERS)	\$475
(14 TO 20 MEMBERS)	\$ <i>57</i> 5
ALUMNI	\$40
ASSOCIATE	\$40
STUDENT	\$15

<sup>\*</sup>Fees are on a per year basis.

### From the President

### **Greetings APAI Members,**

The Conference in April in Baltimore renewed my faith in APAI, not only as the sole voice for discretionary release, but also a place where fellow practitioners can share war stories, compare notes on current practices, and discuss future trends in our changing profession.

Being in such a specialized line of work can be both frustrating and a source of isolation. Our field is unique by being able to interact with others who share the same successes, challenges, and dilemmas allows all APAI members the opportunity to learn, listen, and if necessary, vent. The specialized nature of our work, the "secret" language we speak, and the convoluted logic of some states that dictate our actions are virtually impossible to explain to others in corrections, which makes communication or collaboration with the general public virtually impossible.

Few outside of our chosen field under the pressures, frustrations, and rewards we glean from our work. All too frequently we are identified and criticized for our so called "mistakes" (i.e. a high

profile case that goes bad). In the age of the 15 second sound bite and the 24 hour news cycle our stories are never really recounted or told. The general public needs to be able to assign someone guilt or responsibility. That is why it is imperative on all of us, every day, to explain to friends, acquaintances and neighbors what we do and how we get it done. Having annual training can help reinforce not only our state of the art knowledge of best practices and trends but also allow us to compare notes with others about what works for them. This practice need not be limited by state, country, or world region. Indeed it should be utilized by all of our practitioners to produce an international result. Every single conference attendee is now energized and ready to spread the word. Parole is a force to be reckoned with!

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**David Blumberg**APAI President



# **Member Spotlight**

Kecia Rongen, Chair – Washington State Indeterminate Sentence Review Board by: Ashley Koonce, Executive Director, APAI

**Many of us know Kecia** and are familiar with her welcoming smile and our pleasant interactions with her. Kecia has been an active member and APAI conference attendee for many years.

Kecia has worked within the criminal justice system for 23 years, specializing with the sexual offender population. Just

prior to coming to the Board, she served as the Administrator for Sexual Offender Programs within the Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration. In addition, she has served on a number of legislative workgroups related to sex offender management. She has served as the Chair of the statewide Sex Offender Policy Board twice, from 2010-2012 and 2014-2016 and also served as a Board Member for the WA Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (WATSA). In 2016, she was awarded the Philip L. Russell Ph.D. Achievement Award for Outstanding Contributor to the Field of Sex Offender and Victim Rehabilitation by

WATSA. The Governor appointed her to the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board (ISRB) in 2012, and appointed her as Chair in September of 2015.

Kecia recognizes the importance of using evidence-based decision-making for parole and early release decisions. She also believes it is important to recognize the shift from

> mass incarceration and policy changes that are being made across the US. Kecia's vision for APAI is to strenathen collaborations with other criminal justice organizations, in order to get the word out about our organization. She also acknowledges the importance in supporting students in college who may be working on research related to parole and early release to further evidence-based decision-making. Kecia was recently named Chair for the Public Relations and Communications Committee and will use her knowledge, experience, and expertise to promote and strengthen APAI's media and web presence.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2020 Annual Training Conference

APRIL 4 - 8 / 2020 | NASHVILLE, TN

# **2019 Annual Training Conference**

Thanks to all that joined APAI in Baltimore, Maryland!

by: Ashley Koonce, Executive Director, APAI

I hope that everyone had great travels back and you are getting settled back in after the conference. Your input is vital, this is your organization and as we begin planning next year's conference, we want to know your suggestions and ideas. April of 2020 will find us in the exciting city of Nashville, Tennessee. It is the hope of the Professional Development Committee and the Host Committee to continue to deliver quality educational sessions along with social and networking opportunities with our colleagues and friends during the week.

In Baltimore, we saw one of the most robust agendas we have ever seen and it is our goal to continue to build on that. We had a very welcoming and helpful group of hosts and hostesses and we look forward to the hospitality our friends in Tennessee are bound to show. With all conferences, we find items that work really well, and ways to improve, but we rely on you all to help us make these improvements.

As we get this new year going, we would love to have you involved with us. We have several committees that contribute to the success of the conference each year, and it is truly a team effort across the association. If you are interested in joining us, please reach out to me and we can connect you with the chair of any committee that you would be interested in serving on. I hope you all had a great time in Baltimore and look forward to seeing everyone in Nashville!



# 2018–2019 Award Recipients APAI congratulates and recognizes the following for their service in the field of parole.



**Ben Baer Award** Richard Stroker, South Carolina



**CARE Award** Martin Jones, Parole Board of England and Wales



**Community Service Award** Marian House, Baltimore, Maryland



**President's Award** Monica Morris, Florida



**Vincent O'Leary Award** Jonathan Ogletree

### **Executive Committee**

President **David Blumberg**Maryland

Vice President

Danielle LaCost

Wisconsin

Executive Director
Ashley Koonce
Texas

Past President

Cynthia Mausser

Ohio

Treasurer
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Secretary

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California

Northeastern USA **Matt Degnan** Rhode Island Western USA Lonzo Henderson Alaska Central USA

Jonathan Ogletree

Kansas

Southern USA **Benita Murph**y

West Virginia

International Section
Sylvie Blanchet
Canada

International Section
Thando Tsetsewa
Africa

International Section
Martin Jones
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