



North American Association of Wardens & Superintendents



February 2017 NAAWS Grapevine Newsletter

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

## LOUISIANA STATE OFFENDERS PARTICIPATE IN FEDERAL HIGHER EDUCATION PILOT PROGRAM AIMED AT REDUCING RECIDIVISM

by: Ken Pastorick, Communications Director

Baton Rouge, LA – The Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections has partnered with the United States Department of Education (USDOE) and Ashland University to provide higher education through distance learning to offenders at the state’s prisons, with the goal of helping them get jobs and support for their families when they are released. Offenders at Elayn Hunt Correctional Center, Dixon Correctional Institute, Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women, and Louisiana State Penitentiary began college coursework in pursuit of an Associate of Arts or Bachelor’s degree. It’s part of the USDOE’s Second Chance Pell Pilot program, which pays for offenders to receive post-secondary education while housed at state and federal facilities. More than 200 offenders in Louisiana’s state prisons have enrolled in the federal grant program.

“Educating and training our offenders makes communities safer,” said Department of Public Safety and Corrections Secretary James M. Le Blanc. “We’re reducing recidivism and preparing our prison population to be productive members of society, and this saves taxpayer dollars by lowering the direct and collateral costs of incarceration.”

A 2013 study from the RAND Corporation, funded by the Department of Justice, found that incarcerated individuals who participated in correctional education were 43 percent less likely to return to prison within three years than prisoners who did not participate in any correctional education programs. RAND also estimated that for every

dollar invested in correctional education programs, four to five state dollars are saved on three-year re-incarceration costs.

Through this pilot program, incarcerated individuals who meet other federal eligibility requirements and are eligible for release, particularly within the next five years, could access Pell Grants to pursue post-secondary education and training. The goal is to increase access to high-quality educational opportunities and help these individuals successfully transition out of prison and back into the classroom or the workforce.

Ashland University, Louisiana’s chosen provider, operates the nation’s longest post-secondary correctional education program in the country, and is one of 69 institutions of higher learning selected by the federal government to provide instruction to individuals incarcerated in state and federal prisons. Students will use JPay’s android tablets to interact with their instructors, receive coursework, and turn in assignments. The tablets are programmed to only provide educational work between the University and the offender.

“Ashland University offers the longest operating post-secondary correctional education program in the Nation,” said John Dowdell, Director for Correctional Education for

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 7**

### In This Issue...

President’s Message	Page 2
Mel Williams Receives Award	Page 2
Executive Director’s Report	Page 3
NAAWS Conference	Page 3

January Business Meeting Minutes	Page 4
Minutes (continued)	Page 5
Reducing Restrictive Housing	Page 6
Medal of Valor/Warden of the Year	Page 7
Pilot Program (continued)	Page 7

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by: Robert Welch



First and foremost, I want to express how extremely proud I am to serve as the President of the North American Association of Warden and Superintendents (NAAWS) for the next two years. It is truly an honor to be named in the same sentence as some of the great presidents of NAAWS. I am extremely humbled to have been elected President of this great and historic organization. I look forward to

working with the NAAWS Administrative Staff; Gloria Hultz, Pat Keohane, Mel Williams, Ashley Koonce, Gail Heller, Deb Schumann, Carl Nick and Mike Graziano, as well as its Officers; 1st Vice President, Seth Smith; Secretary, Tanisha Matthews; Treasurer, Gail Heller; Sergeants-at-Arms, Joe Page III and Russell (Rusty) Washburn. I have many people to thank along this journey, and while the list is too long to mention everyone individually, I do want to say "Thank You" to everyone who has given me advice along the way from being a Sergeant-at-Arms to my current position as President.

My goal as President of NAAWS is to increase membership in order for our organization to continue to be a strong voice for corrections regarding the ever changing field that we work in. NAAWS will continue working to expand our organizations membership by reaching out to Wardens and Superintendents in all states and Canada. I encourage every member to share the benefits of being a member of NAAWS with your colleagues, and to direct them to the NAAWS web page, [naawsonline.org](http://naawsonline.org), for additional information.

I hope that all are making plans to attend the North American Association of Warden and Superintendents (NAAWS) Conference, April 11 – 13, 2017 in Alcoa, Tennessee. This year's conference will present excellent training and networking opportunities for our members and will also serves as a chance to introduce best practices in

the corrections field. NAAWS has a rich tradition of providing high quality conferences and this year's conference will not disappoint. We have a great agenda being prepared. As in the past we will have presenters to appeal to all aspects of corrections.

In closing, I believe remembering our past as we prepare for the future has never been more important than it is today. We are entering a challenging and exciting time in corrections, as public pressure on expectations increase and the demand for our organization continues to rise. NAAWS will be a voice for all aspects of corrections that we represent.

## MEL WILLIAMS RECEIVES AWARD



Mel Williams, longtime NAAWS member, former President, and current Education Chair received this year's Keohane Family Award in Boston at ACA's Summer Congress. The Keohane Award was established in honor of Tim Keohane, a longtime auditor who died while on an ACA audit. The Keohane Award is presented annually to an auditor in recognition of their superior contributions, professionalism, commitment, and leadership to the auditing and accreditation process. Along with Commission Chair Ellas Diggins, Pat Keohane presented the Award to Mel at the annual Accreditation luncheon.

Mel has been active with ACA for many years. In addition to working on accreditation for ACA in the U.S., Mel has worked for ACA on International Standards in Mexico, U.A.E., and Columbia.



The Correctional Management Institute of Texas in partnership with NAAWS

# WARDENS PEER INTERACTION PROGRAM

**May 22 – 26, 2017 • Huntsville, Texas**

Contact Ashley Koonce at [koonce@shsu.edu](mailto:koonce@shsu.edu) or 936-294-1706  
apply at [www.cmitonline.org](http://www.cmitonline.org)

From the desk of...

*The Executive Director*

Gloria Hultz

Wow, what an exciting year and it's just beginning! 2017 started well, with seventeen nominations for the 2016-17 Warden of the Year Award. It was a challenging selection process and NAAWS is proud to congratulate Warden Jerry Goodwin from the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

We also received nominations for the NAAWS Medal of Valor Award from eight states. We will be honoring six Valor Award recipients representing Ohio, California, and Florida. These awards will be presented at the ACA Summer Congress in St. Louis, Missouri in August 2017.

Don't forget to register and make hotel reservations for the NAAWS Annual Conference which will be held April 11-13, 2017, in Alcoa, Tennessee. It promises to be an outstanding program with many opportunities for learning and networking.

I want to reiterate, that without each of the members, NAAWS could not be a thriving organization. Continue doing a great job and always remember to mentor others and assist them in their career development.

Sorry I missed seeing everyone in San Antonio, but I needed to be with my daughter and my new grandson. I love NAAWS, but family comes first!

## REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2017 NAAWS CONFERENCE

It is time to make plans to attend the 2017 NAAWS Annual Conference, which will be April 11-13, 2017. This year's conference theme is, "Learning from the Past, Moving Forward to the Future," and the host committee has been working hard to arrange a great group of presenters and activities. The beautiful city of Knoxville, Tennessee is just a short drive from the host hotel. Make your reservations now at the Hilton Knoxville Airport, 2001 Alcoa Highway, Alcoa, TN 37701. The hotel's phone number is 865-970-4300, call before March 19, 2017, to be ensured the great rate of \$105 plus tax. (Use the code NAAWS). Conference registration is open on the NAAWS website, or by mail. If you need registration information, please refer to the website or contact Gail Heller at 614-736-9676 or [gheller214@columbus.rr.com](mailto:gheller214@columbus.rr.com). Early registration ends March 31, 2017, so register now!

This year's conference agenda is an exciting one. We have lined up panel presentations on great topics including: Hiring and Retaining the Best in Corrections; Another Side of Security: Managing a Nuclear Storage Facility; Corrections: Today's Challenges Are Not New; The Boston University Prison Education Program; Reinventing Yourself as a Global Leader in the Workforce Without Looking Like an Amateur; Streamlining Inmate Intake Processing; Best Practices Before, During, and After an External Audit; and much more! A full description of each presentation can be found on the website.

In addition, two great speakers will speak at luncheons on Tuesday and Wednesday, and on Tuesday night, there will be an amazing comedy and magical act that is sure to be the talk of the conference! On Wednesday night, participants will have an opportunity to participate in an Escape Room adventure. Please see the web page for details. Lastly, a NAAWS conference would not be complete without an opportunity to tour some of the local facilities, so please plan to join us on Thursday for a visit to the Knox County jail and the Y-12 National Security Complex. Do not miss this year's wonderful opportunity to network with and learn from the best.

For more information on this year's conference, please contact Program Coordinator Cathy Linaweaver at [clinaweaver@yahoo.com](mailto:clinaweaver@yahoo.com) or 816-213-3784.

## NAAWS BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

San Antonio, Texas | January 23, 2017

---

### 1. WELCOME

President Cherry Lindamood opened the meeting and dispensed with introductions as all members knew each other.

### 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 25, 2016

Minutes from this meeting were published in The Grapevine. Minutes from all future meetings will be published in The Grapevine.

*MOTION: To approve minutes from the January 25, 2016 meeting (Linaweaver, Welch)*

*MOTION APPROVED*

### 3. EXECUTIVE TREASURER'S REPORT

All meeting participants received a copy of the financial report from July 31, 2016 to January 15, 2017 which was reviewed in detail by Executive Treasurer Gail Heller. The association continues to do well financially and has a current balance in all accounts of \$39,981.88.

*MOTION: To accept the financial report as presented (Perry, Welch)*

*MOTION APPROVED*

### 4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. The report was given by Past President Todd Thomas on behalf of Gloria Hultz

b. Gloria has a new grandbaby

c. Chuck Albino stated that articles for the Grapevine were needed

### 5. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

a. Given by Todd Thomas on behalf of Membership Chair Graziano

b. 1014 Members with 74 who were past due over a year and 124 who are currently past due. He recently removed 63 off the rolls. He noted that email reminders are being sent out and the membership committee is also making phone calls.

c. A suggestion was made by Pat Caruso that having personal email addresses instead of work email addresses

would be very helpful.

### 6. KNOXVILLE CONFERENCE UPDATE

a. Program Chair Linaweaver indicated that there were flyers in the NAAWS suite for the upcoming conference. The Tennessee Commissioner will speak the first luncheon of the conference. There will be a magic night/comedy act Tuesday night and the off-site event had not yet been finalized but an "escape room" activity is being explored. Goodie bags will not be dated so they can be used for future conferences. The conference theme is "Learning from the Past, Moving Forward to the Future."

b. Vendor Coordinator Pat Keohane stated that he has good interest from vendors in participating and is looking forward to a good turnout.

c. Conference Coordinator Deb Schuman stated that members needed to book their hotel rooms by March 19th.

### 7. WARDEN OF THE YEAR/MEDAL OF VALOR

a. Report given by Todd Thomas/Pat Keohane

b. Todd Thomas stated that there were 18 strong submissions for Warden of the Year resulting in Jerry Goodwin of Louisiana being the chosen awardee. Secretary James M. Le Blanc of Louisiana was notified.

c. Discussion was had regarding revising the form for Warden of the Year to include the number of years the nominee has been a Warden, having more defined selection criteria for both awards, setting a firm submission deadline, and sending submissions via email to those eligible to vote, prior to the voting meeting.

d. Pat Keohane stated twelve nominations were received for the Medal of Valor with six selected recipients. Mr. Keohane attempted to reach each agency with a recipient and all but one had been notified at the time of the meeting. Two of the recipients were from Victorville, California, three from Florida and one from Ohio. He had also began notifying the agencies whose nominees were not chosen.

### 8. GRAPEVINE/WEBSITE UPDATE

a. Discussion was led by Chuck Albino on how many pub-





## NAAWS BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES CONTINUED

San Antonio, Texas | January 23, 2017

lications of the Grapevine should be published annually and on having set dates for publications.

b. All submissions for publication in The Grapevine need to go through Mr. Albino and not sent directly to Ashley Koonce, the CMIT Project Coordinator, as that is causing some confusion. All submissions must be approved by Mr. Albino and Executive Director Hultz prior to Ashley including it in a publication.

*MOTION: Have three publications of The Grapevine produced annually – one in February, June and October (Albino, Williams)*

**MOTION APPROVED**

### 9. CMIT UPDATE

a. Ashley Koonce reminded members of the email list serve that is set up for NAAWS and that reminders about upcoming conferences could be sent out regularly using the email list.

b. Pat Caruso suggested that email reminders be set up for Warden Peer participants who receive one year of free membership at the time their membership needs to be renewed.

### 10. TRAINING/A VIEW FROM THE TRENCHES

a. Mel Williams reported that he has only received two articles in the last year and a half and that new wardens should be encouraged to write articles and give back to those who have helped them.

b. Cathy Linaweaver suggested that attendees of the Wardens Peer Interactive Training Program write articles and Pat Caruso stated that she could talk to the students who attend New Warden training.

c. Mel Williams stated that he would like to get more workshops approved for ACA conferences and that if members had ideas for workshops they should contact him.

### 11. OLD BUSINESS

a. Discussion was led by Mel Williams regarding how conference locations and hotels are decided upon and suggested that the organization go back to a method used in the past where locations were chosen in areas where

NAAWS could depend on having local support of the conference.

b. Chuck Albino stated that he had talked to Texas leaders and that, if chosen as a conference site, Texas would agree to support NAAWS and send Wardens to the conference.

c. Deb Schumann agreed to look into the area for sites that would fit the conference needs.

### 12. NEW BUSINESS

Cathy Linaweaver reminded everyone that last year a motion was approved to donate to the non-profit organization, Creative Corrections, which provides scholarships to the children of incarcerated parents and that a vote would need to be taken annually on future donations.

*MOTION: To approve \$2,000 donation to support Creative Corrections Education Fund. (Linaweaver, Williams)*

**MOTION APPROVED**

b. Chuck Kehoe reported on the Health Culture Committee. The Committee received support from the ACA Delegate Assembly and may be a good topic for inclusion in A View From the Trenches.

c. Pat Perry offered his thanks to NAAWS for support to the Student Affairs Committee.

d. Sharon Perry offered thanks to NAAWS for support to the CAYSA conference.

e. President Lindamood expressed her honor to have served as President for the last two years and welcomed Robert Welch as the new President of NAAWS

f. President Welch thanked Past President Lindamood and expressed his honor to serve. On behalf of Executive Director Hultz, President Welch requested a donation for the Silent Victims of Crime

*MOTION: To approve a \$500.00 donation to the Silent Victims of Crime (Williams, Perry)*

**MOTION APPROVED**

## LOUISIANA'S DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL PROJECT AIMED AT REDUCING RESTRICTIVE HOUSING

by: Ken Pastorick, Communications Director

Baton Rouge, LA – The Vera Institute of Justice recently selected Louisiana's Department of Corrections (DOC) as one of five state corrections departments to participate in its Safe Alternatives to Segregation Initiative, which is helping state and local corrections agencies around the country reduce their use of restrictive housing. In addition to Louisiana's DOC, corrections departments in Minnesota, Nevada, Utah, and Virginia were chosen after a competitive proposal process. These state corrections departments join six jurisdictions who have been participating in the initiative since April 2015: Nebraska, North Carolina, Oregon, New York City, and Middlesex County, New Jersey.

"We are honored that we have been chosen to participate in the Vera Institute's Safe Alternatives to Segregation initiative, supported by the Bureau of Justice Assistance," said James M. Le Blanc, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections. "Our selection speaks to our own progress, as we have already taken internal steps towards reforming the Department's restrictive housing policy based on current best practices. We have also been approved to field test the American Correctional Association newly developed Restrictive Housing standards, which will become part of the national accreditation process. Vera's assistance will aid us in further examining and improving our restrictive housing policies and developing new approaches to effectively managing inmate behavior."

Restrictive housing is used widely in U.S. prisons and jails. In recent years, a groundswell for ending the overuse of this practice has stemmed from public officials across the political spectrum, advocates, and correctional leaders. While many corrections departments nationwide want to reduce their reliance on restrictive housing, the practice is often deeply entrenched as a way of maintaining order—it is used to respond to all levels of infractions, and manage people who are considered challenging. Through this initiative, Vera will work with Louisiana and

the other selected states to assess their use of restrictive housing, develop viable strategies to safely reduce that use, and assist with implementing these changes. Louisiana will also receive guidance from the initiative's advisory council, which includes practitioners of corrections systems that have successfully reduced their reliance on restrictive housing, as well as experts in fields such as mental health and correctional reform. The 21-month partnership will begin in early 2017, and is supported by a \$2.2 million grant awarded to Vera earlier this year by the

U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance. The selected states will provide a match up to \$50,000. Louisiana is providing a \$40,000 in kind match.

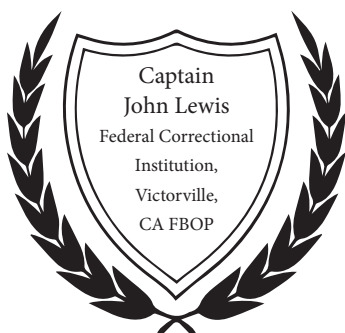
"The response to this initiative demonstrates that states across the nation and political spectrum are committed to taking on criminal justice reform, including a focus on the conditions of confinement," said Fred Patrick, director of Vera's Center on Sentencing and Corrections. "We are thrilled to now be working with ten jurisdictions to not only improve the safety and well-being of individuals, prisons, and communities in their states, but also to model promising practices for others who share this vision."

In the spring, Vera will be releasing a report detailing findings and recommendations from its work with the six jurisdictions who joined the initiative last year—many of whom have already begun implementing reforms. For example, North Carolina banned the use of restrictive housing for juveniles in June, and Nebraska ended the use of restrictive housing as a punishment for all disciplinary violations in July. Instead, the need to place an individual in segregation in Nebraska will be based on an assessment of the individual's risk to the safety and security of others and facility operations.





RECIPIENTS OF THE  
2016-2017 MEDAL OF VALOR



THANK YOU TO ALL THE FOLLOWING STATES  
FOR PARTICIPATING THIS YEAR

- California - DOC
- California - FBOP
- Florida - DOC
- Ohio - DRAC
- Oklahoma - GEO
- Texas - DOCJ
- Wyoming - DOC

**REDUCING RECIDIVISM**

*Continued from Page 1*

Ashland University. "We are pleased to bring 21st Century technology to correctional students in Louisiana and to offer them the opportunity to earn a degree in preparation for reentry and positive engagement with the community."

The Second Chance Pell Pilot program is currently available for up to 300 offenders in Louisiana's state prisons. Eligible offenders at B.B. Rayburn Correctional Center, David Wade Correctional Center, and Raymond Laborde Correctional Center will be able to apply for the Second Chance Pell Grants for the Spring semester. In addition to Ashland University, Wiley College will offer coursework in Louisiana in 2017.

2016-2017  
WARDEN OF THE YEAR  
NOMINEES

Karla Jones  
*AL DOC*

Jeff Wrigley  
*AZ GEO*

John Shartle  
*AZ FBOP*

Clark Ducart  
*CA DOC*

Jason Lengerich  
*CO DOC*

John P. Tarascio  
*CT*

Michael Morgan  
*FL DOC*

Jimmy Goodwin\*  
*LA DPSC*

Michael Bowersox  
*MO DOC*

Maxsolaine Mingo  
*NYC DOC*

Kathleen Gerbing  
*NYS DOCCS*

Ronette "Roni" Burks  
*OH DRC*

Lawrence Mahally  
*PA DOC*

Shawn Phillips  
*TN DOC*

Timothy Wilkinson  
*TX CORECIVIC*

Tommie Haynes  
*TX DOCJ*

\*2016-2017 WOY recipient