



**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
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Board of Pardons and Paroles members named

Pierre, S.D. – Three new members have been appointed to the Board of Pardons and Paroles.

James P. Smith of Pierre, Keith Bonenberger of Kadoka and Patricia A. Meyers of Rapid City are joining the nine member Board.

State law grants appointing authority for the Board to the Governor, Attorney General and state Supreme Court, with each appointing three members. At least one of the members appointed by each authority is required to be an attorney.

Smith is a Governor's appointee to the Board. He is the former Executive Director of the Board of Charities and Corrections and served as warden of the Springfield Correctional Facility from 1989 to 1995.

Bonenberger worked for the South Dakota Unified Judicial System for nearly 29 years, including 2 ½ years as State Director of Court Services prior to his retirement in May 2006. He was appointed by the Attorney General.

Meyers is an attorney with Costello Porter Hill Heisterkamp Bushnell & Carpenter LLP in Rapid City. She was appointed by the Chief Justice of the South Dakota Supreme Court.

All three appointments are subject to confirmation by the South Dakota Senate.

Parole Board members serve four-year terms. The Board of Pardons and Paroles conducts hearings and takes action on inmate petitions for parole and makes recommendations to the Governor on requests for clemency. The Board is administered under the jurisdiction and direction of the Department of Corrections but retains quasi-judicial, quasi-legislative, advisory and other non-administrative functions independent of the Department of Corrections.