

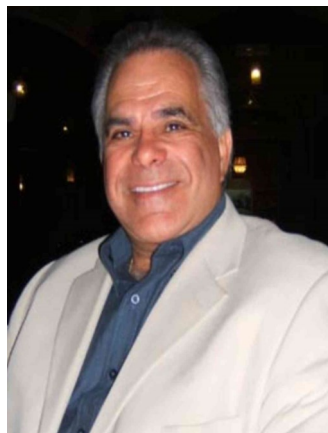
Louisiana Psychological Association

February, 2015

Louisiana Psychological Association: Vol. 6, Issue 1.

The LPA Newsletter is the voice of the Louisiana Psychological Association.

## President's Column By Joe Tramontana, Ph.D.



I am very pleased about the improved, more efficient functioning of LPA now that we have an excellent, local Executive Director (ED), Ms. Cindy Bishop. Cindy and her team are working feverishly and diligently to increase LPA membership.

This includes recruiting new members and also getting past members to re-join.

Along that line, I wish to report that your Executive Council is a very

cohesive group, and we are all dedicated to the goal of improving the voice of LPA in the psychology community and serving as an effective, efficient representative of psychology in Louisiana.

We are beginning our planning meetings for our annual Annual Con-

***"...we are all dedicated to the goal of improving the voice of LPA in the psychology community and serving as an effective, efficient representative of psychology in Louisiana."***

vention, which will again be at the Sheraton Galleria, in Metairie. The dates are June 12 and 13, and our ED is already sending out requests for pro-

posals. Again, we will be offering many CE opportunities.

My column for this issue, by design, is rather short. I learned a long time ago that good leaders surround themselves with strength. If that is the case, I must be doing something right, because we have great

strength in our ranks of officers and directors, as well as committee chairs and their members. So I will stop and allow them to describe their efforts in the columns below. **ψ**

### Inside this issue:

<i>Report of the Executive Director</i>	p. 2
<i>In the News</i>	p. 5
<i>Report of the Professional Affairs Committee</i>	p. 6
<i>Legislation Matters</i>	p. 7
<i>Membership Committee</i>	p. 8
<i>Continuing Education Committee</i>	p. 10
<i>LPA Welcomes New Members</i>	p. 10
<i>Early Career Psychologists Committee</i>	p. 11
<i>Campus Psi Chi Updates</i>	p. 12



## **Report of the Executive Director...by Cindy Bishop, Executive Director**

The Louisiana Psychological Association held an Executive Council (Board) Meeting on Saturday January 24, 2015 at the home of Dr. Darlyne Nemeth in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The following EC members attended the meeting:

Dr. Joe Tramontana

Dr. Darlyne Nemeth

Dr. Bryan Gros

Dr. Lucinda DeGrange

Dr. Michelle Moore

Dr. John Fanning

Dr. Kim VanGeffen

Ms. Cindy Bishop attended as the LPA Executive Director. Also, Dr. Gail Gillespie attended as CE Chairman.

The following EC members and Committee Chairs were absent:

Dr. Carolyn Weyand

Dr. Lacey Seymour

Dr. Michele Larzelere

Dr. Kelly Pears

### **Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Tramontana made a motion for the approval of the minutes of the November 24, 2014 meeting. This motion passed by unanimous vote.

### **President's Report**

Dr. Joseph Tramontana gave a brief report. He plans to attend the APA State Leadership Conference in March, slated to be held in Washington, D.C.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Cindy Bishop presented an Executive Director's Report. She also presented the 2015 Corporate Membership Application to the Executive Council.

Ms. Bishop reviewed the Revenue Share Agreement (RSA) between LPA and Complete Medical Solutions. She reported that the only change to the RSA was substituting the term "commission" for "revenue share." Also, Ms. Bishop reported that a provision was added to stipulate that adoption of the RSA does not imply that LPA officially endorses Complete Medical Solutions.

**Executive Director's Report...Continued from p. 2.**

Ms. Bishop explained the Revenue Share agreement with Complete Medical Solutions and asked the EC to ratify the contract. On the motion of Dr. Gros, the EC approved the contract with CMS.

**Membership Committee**

Dr. Bryan Gros presented a Membership Report.

**Financial Update**

Cindy Bishop presented a financial update. Dr. Nemeth made a motion to approve the Business Account Financial Statement. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Cindy Bishop presented a proposed budget for calendar year 2015. On the motion of Dr. Gros, the proposed budget was approved, provisionally. It was noted that \$125 needs to be added to the budget to cover APA Caucus Expenses for 2015.

**Convention Committee**

The Convention Committee is comprised of the following:

Dr. Lacey Seymour

Dr. Lucinda DeGrange

Dr. Paula Zeanah

Dr. Darlyne Nemeth

Dr. Michelle Moore

Dr. Joe Tramontana

**APA Council of Representatives**

Dr. Darlyne Nemeth presented a report on the APA Council of Representatives. She will attend an APA Council meeting in February, 2015 and also in August, 2015. Dr. Nemeth reported that she was able to pass a resolution at Council to cover the majority of the Representatives' expenses, so the only cost to LPA is joining the various caucuses. The impact of this resolution is that LPA will save approximately \$2,000 each year.

**Executive Director's Report...Continued from p. 3.****Diversity Committee**

Dr. DeGrange gave a report of the Diversity Committee. She also reported on the LPA meeting with DHH Secretary Kathy Kliebert to discuss mental health reimbursement concerns. She reported that Secretary Kliebert asked LPA to submit specific recommendations relative to mental health reimbursement. Secretary Kliebert acknowledged that reimbursement is low. Dr. Gail Gillespie reported that she is in the process of calling local facilities to ascertain the length of their waiting lists.

**Early Career Psychologist Committee**

Dr. Michelle Moore gave a brief report on the Early Career Psychologist Committee.

**Elections Committee**

Dr. John Fanning reported that there will be an EC election this summer.

**Professional Affairs Committee**

Dr. Kim VanGeffen reported on the most recent meeting of the LSBEP. She stated that she will be serving on the LSBEP Task Force on Professionalism.

**New Business**

Cindy Bishop suggested that the LPA reach out to each of the coordinated care networks and try to meet with their representatives prior to December 1, 2015. On November 30, 2015, the DHH contract with Magellan will end.

**Future meetings**

The next EC meeting will be April 11th and the following meeting will be on May 16th. [ψ](#)



# In the News...

Congratulations to Dr. Darlyne Nemeth who was recently elected secretary of the Caucus of State, Territorial and Provincial Representatives (CSTPR) within the APA Council of Representatives. This amplifies the voice of Louisiana psychologists. Please consider getting in touch with Dr. Nemeth if you have views or concerns that you would like raised within APA. ([dgnemeth@gmail.com](mailto:dgnemeth@gmail.com))

APA recently released findings from its annual *Stress in America* survey. Although overall levels of stress are decreasing, as in other years, the survey found that money remains the top stressor for Americans. To read the full survey, go to <http://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/stress/index.aspx>.

If you are an APA member, you should have recently received an email calling for nominations for the APA presidency. Please consider nominating a colleague for leadership in APA. Grassroots concerns of America's psychologists will only be heard at the national level if we all become involved.  $\Psi$

**Save The Date!**  
**June 12 & 13, 2015**

Sheraton Galleria Hotel, Metairie, Louisiana

**Louisiana Psychological Association**  
**2015 Annual Convention**  
**"Psychology Across the Lifespan"**





## Report of the Professional Affairs Committee by Kim VanGeffen, PhD



By now most psychologists should have heard of the Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS) which is a requirement for any providers billing Medicare for patient services. This system is based on a shift from the traditional fee for service model to a “pay for performance” model which I discussed in a previous newsletter article. This issue was also addressed in a webinar by Dr. Tony Puente which covered mental health coding issues. As of this year, it is now mandatory for all providers billing Medicare to participate in this system or face de-

ductions for payment of Medicare services. The PQRS system also involves financial incentives for Medicare providers who submit data on specified quality measures. The American Psychological Association has delineated descriptions for those codes which are applicable to mental health (eg., depression, substance abuse). The National Academy of Neuropsychology has delineated those codes which are applicable to the practices of neuropsychologists (eg., dementia, epilepsy, Parkinson's Disease).

In order to assist psychologists in complying with these new PQRS regulations, the American Psychological Association has partnered with Healthmonix, a health care data and

technology company, to develop PQR-SPRO, which is a cloud based system which allows behavioral health providers to report PQRS measures. For 2014 reporting, the registry cost \$199.00 and can be accessed via the link

<http://apapo.pqrspro.com/>.

Psychologists who provide Medicare services should have signed up with this registry by January 31, 2015 in order to report data for 2014 claims. Those who are now part of this registry must complete their reporting for 2014 patient claims by February 15, 2015. Those psychologists who report 2014 measures are able to earn a 0.5 percent bonus on all 2014 Medicare charges and avoid a two percent penalty in 2016. It will also be necessary for psychologists to continue to report the PQRS measures in future

***“Those psychologists who report 2014 (PQRS) measures are able to earn a 0.5 percent bonus on all 2014 Medicare charges and avoid a two percent penalty in 2016.”***

years. Penalties will be assessed two years behind the reporting year. For example, psychologists who do not report 2014 data will be penalized in 2016. Psychologists who do not report 2015 data will be penalized in 2017. Another helpful link which addresses PQRS reporting for neuropsychologists is <http://abn-board.com/practitioner-toolbox/>. This link was developed by Florida neuropsychologist Dr. Randi Most. ♡




## **Legislation Matters** By Lucinda DeGrange, Ph.D.

The state of Louisiana is transitioning from Magellan as their Statewide Management Organization (SMO) for Medicaid behavioral health to Bayou Health Plans, which consist of five different managed care organizations: Aetna Better Health of Louisiana, Amerigroup Louisiana, Inc., AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana, Louisiana Healthcare Connections, Inc., and United Healthcare of Louisiana, Inc. Providers can choose to sign up with just one health plan or as many as they would like. Additionally, behavioral health will be integrated into acute care services. The transition will take effect December 1, 2015.



In an effort to voice our concerns with the current way behavioral health is managed through Magellan and influence how psychologists are treated in this new era of Bayou Health, LPA met with DHH officials on 1/13/15. At the meeting were Kathy Kliebert (DHH Secretary), Calder Lynch (DHH Chief of Staff), Rochelle Head-Dunham, M.D. (DHH Assistant Secretary and Medical Director for the office of Behavioral Health), Courtney Phillips (Deputy Secretary), and Janice Peterson, Ph.D. (Deputy Assistant Secretary). Gail Gillespie, Ph.D. (Member and CE Committee Chair), Cindy Bishop (LPA Executive Director), and I attended on behalf of LPA. Concerns voiced by LPA included low reimbursement rates, excessive paperwork, frequent denials for psychological testing, limited approved hours for psychological testing, and dramatically lowered referrals to psychologists by state agencies (including DCFS and OJJ). The challenges faced by psychologists in offering services to Medicaid clients due, primarily, to the overall low reimbursement rates, was discussed.

On 1/30/15 I also attended the DHH Integrative Behavioral Health Services meeting in Baton Rouge. This Behavioral Health Advisory Council is a working group gathering to discuss the upcoming transition to behavioral health. LPA attended as an interested member of the behavioral health community. There are two more meetings scheduled and they are open to the public. I urge you to attend to directly influence this process. The next meeting dates are Feb. 20, 2015 and March 30, 2015 at DHH offices in Baton Rouge for 1pm.

Please contact me directly with information regarding Medicaid and your experiences: [lucindadegrange@yahoo.com](mailto:lucindadegrange@yahoo.com) or call 504-861-0560. 

LPA's legislative efforts rely on a strong Political Action Committee (PAC). PAC funds go directly into financially supporting those legislators who partner with LPA to protect our profession and the public that we serve. If you have not done so, please make your 2015 contributions to the PAC.

Contributions to the LPA PAC can be made by mail:

LPA PAC, P.O. Box 80053; Baton Rouge,  
LA 70898-0053

or at <http://www.louisianapsychologist.org>





## From the Membership Committee

by Bryan Gros, Ph.D.

This year there will be a much greater emphasis on renewals and new member recruitment than in the past. We will also be focusing equally on getting past members to rejoin. Your Executive Council and new Executive Director, Ms. Cindy Bishop, and her staff are working on making contact with every psychologist licensed in our state. We will also be contacting provisionally licensed psychologists. This year-around process is an arduous undertaking, but one we believe is critical in sustaining the vitality of YOUR state psychological association.

As you know, LPA has been the only organization in Louisiana advocating for all of psychology for more than 65 years. As a group, members of LPA have a strong legislative voice to help protect psycholo-

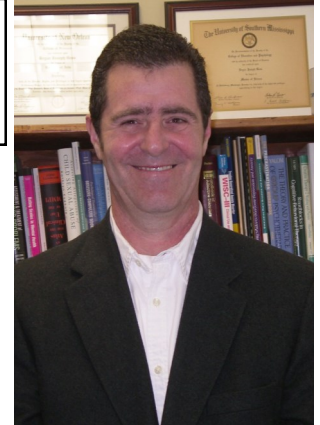
gy from threats to our profession, and we have been very successful in recent years. Your individual voice is a critical part of our collective voice.

By this time, you should have received electronic renewal notices. We have also sent mailers to those who have yet to renew. The renewal deadline is February 15, 2015. At that point, we will

***“...LPA has been the only organization in Louisiana advocating for all of psychology for more than 65 years...Your individual voice is a critical part of our collective voice.”***

begin purging our membership rosters. If you have renewed or recently joined, we cannot thank you enough. If you've not yet renewed, please stay with us for what will

prove to be an exciting and productive year. Renewals and new member applications can be accessed easily at [louisianapsychologist.org](http://louisianapsychologist.org) or by contacting Sarah Heath at [sheath72@gmail.com](mailto:sheath72@gmail.com). **Ψ**







## LPA Membership Levels:

### New Full Member (1st Year) Dues: \$110

New Full Members must meet the same membership requirements as Full Members. Individuals applying for first time full membership are eligible for a reduction in dues. This member type is NOT available for renewing members. All Full Members are eligible to vote and hold office.

### Full Member (2nd Year) Dues: \$180

Full 2nd Year Members must meet the same membership requirements as Full Members.

### Full Member Dues: \$255:

Full Members are: (1) persons holding an earned doctoral degree in psychology conferred by a regionally accredited college, university or professional school of psychology, or program of equivalent standing outside the United States; or (2) persons holding a Louisiana license as a psychologist.

### Life Member 50 Dues: \$127.50

Reduced dues (50%) are available for psychologists who are 65 or older, who have been LPA members for at least 10 consecutive years, and who have reduced their workload/income by 50% or more. Members must request and apply to the Treasurer for Life Member 50% status.

### Life Member Dues: \$0

(1) Psychologists who are 65 or older, who have been LPA members for at least 10 consecutive years and who have officially discontinued their psychological workload/income, or (2) Psychologists who are 70 or older, who have been LPA members for at least 10 consecutive years, and who have reduced their psychological workload/income by 75% or more. Members must request and apply to the Treasurer for Life Member status.

### Associate Member Dues: \$75

Associate Members are: Persons who have earned a Master's degree in psychology or a related area from a regionally accredited graduate school. Associate members are not eligible to vote or hold office.

### Affiliate Member Dues: \$20

Affiliate Members are: Persons currently enrolled in a graduate or undergraduate psychology program or related field at a regionally accredited school. Affiliate members are not eligible to vote or hold office.

### Century Member Dues: Voluntary Contribution

- Platinum Level (\$500 up)
- Gold Level (\$250 - \$499)
- Silver Level (\$100 - \$249)



## Your LPA membership supports the profession of psychology by:

- Representing and advocating for the profession of psychology at the state and national levels.
- Safeguarding and protecting our profession
- Working with state agencies and regulatory boards, including the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, the Office of Behavioral Health, and the Department of Insurance.
- Representing psychologists' interest with third-party payers.
- Representing psychology in the State Capitol and being a unified voice on issues affecting psychology.

- Representing Louisiana and APA member psychologists on governance and policy decisions with the American Psychological Association.
- Safeguarding the freedom of scientific inquiry, teaching and professional practice.
- Working with an Academic Advisory Committee; a Diversity Committee; and a Medical Psychology Committee



## Benefits of Membership

- Legislative Advocacy
- Annual Convention and Fall Conference
- Discount Continuing Education Rates
- Early career psychologist assistance
- Free consultation with our Committee on Legal and Ethical Issues
- Networking Opportunities with colleagues and others
- Online Referral Service
- Online Membership Directory
- Member Listserv for networking, referrals, and issues of special interests
- Special Interest Groups



## From the Continuing Education Committee.

By Gail Gillespie, Ph.D., Continuing Education Chair



In January, LPA was in receipt of four requests for CE approval by the LPA, and applications were sent to the interested parties. Information about workshops approved by LPA for CE credit is made available to members. Thus far, two applications have been approved and one was denied. The fourth application has not yet been completed. In early February, we received a fifth request, which will soon be sent out. In the last few weeks, Dr. Paula Zeanah and I have been busy with some much-needed editing and revising of the CE application and guidelines. The application looks more professional in appearance, and the guidelines are more specific and understandable. It will eventually be uploaded to the LPA website and accessible as an

email-able PDF file for interested parties.

One of my goals as CE chair is to find more ways in which psychologists can earn CE. At a grassroots level, we can all contribute to this process in a variety of ways.

1. If you hear of an upcoming workshop, seminar, or conference that is approved for psychologists by an accredited organization (e.g., APA, BESE, etc.), email me directly and I can share the information through the listserv or newsletter.
2. If you hear of a conference or workshop that is appropriately approved and that could be of interest to psychologists, consider reaching out to the contact person and asking them if they might consider submitting an LPA application for CE. Application fees are a small source of income for LPA, and if approved, we have another CE opportunity.
3. Consider sharing your area of expertise with your colleagues

at an LPA conference. You earn CE credits for presenting.

4. If you are computer-savvy and have the impetus and confidence to do so, consider submitting an LPA CE application for regular online webinars (either by doing your own series, or submitting requests for other psychologists to present).

Keep in mind that the new CE rules of 40 versus 30 hours biannually do not begin until July 2016 or 2017 (depending on your license number), but they greatly expand the way in which CE credits can be earned. **Ψ**

***“Consider sharing your area of expertise with your colleagues at an LPA conference.”***

**The Louisiana Psychological Association welcomes the following new affiliate members:**

Andrew Guidry (DeRidder, LA)

Kristine Lacoste (Madisonville, LA)




## Early Career Psychologists Committee: Financial Woes and Hurdles.

By Michelle B. Moore, PsyD



When you start graduate school, no one ever tells you just how much it will cost to join the field of psychology, e.g. licensing fees, EPPP, liability insurance, office space, office supplies, and the list goes on. Once you finally accept those financial woes, you realize that it is time to start repaying loans and other debts related to your actual training and education. The most difficult part is that all of these payments start just as you finally have an actual salary and paycheck! Rest assured that all negative things eventually come to an end and everything regains balance even if it feels like it takes years to happen. When you are finally licensed and still feeling the weight of financial burden, remind yourself that just a few years ago you worked for pennies and were able to survive. This may also be a good time to consider creating a budget and determining how your expenses and income match. You might realize that take out and Friday night cocktails are no longer in the weekly budget. Decide for yourself what you are willing to sacrifice, while you get your financial situation straightened out and to a place where you feel more comfortable. If you are having trouble creating a budget or committing to one that you have made, consider meeting with a financial planner or a mentor in the field who can provide guidance and reassurance for your decisions. This might sound crazy, but early in your career is also an important time to start thinking about how you are planning for retirement and future savings. Just as we acknowledge that termination with patients is intertwined throughout the course of treatment, decisions about your long-term future should also be on your mind. You will feel less anxiety mid-career if you make decisions about retirement and savings early in your career. All in all, it is important to be aware of your current financial state and to feel as if you have a firm handle on where it is going. By creating a solid financial plan early in your career, you can rest easier at night knowing that your financial life is in balance (at least for the time being)!

The purpose of the Early Career Psychologist (ECP) Committee is to provide a supportive network to ECPs who are just beginning their careers as well as to create stronger relationships between newly licensed psychologists and veteran psychologists who can share their wisdom and expertise. The committee also hopes to address and resolve any unique issues, both professionally and personally, that arise for ECPs and to advocate for ECPs when necessary. The current committee consists of Drs. Michelle Moore, Lacey Seymour, Anne Ciccone, Melissa Dufrene, Fernando Pastrana, and Jacquelyn Braud. If you are interested in joining the ECP Committee, please send an email to [michellebmoore@gmail.com](mailto:michellebmoore@gmail.com). 





## Campus Psi Chi Updates

The SELU Psi Chi chapter has been hard at work during the last semester. We participated in a lot of on campus events to connect the students in the organization to the campus itself. We also participated in a food drive for the Tangi Food Pantry right before the holidays. We are hoping this semester to do some more fundraising for our organization and connect students with research opportunities to prepare them for their next steps in the field of psychology



*Submitted by Deanna Robertson  
SELU Psi Chi President.*



**SELU Psi Chi Officers, Spring 2015 (L to R): Hunter Waddell- VP of Recruitment; Megan Simon- Secretary; Jenniffer Smith- Vice President; Dr. Paula Varnado-Sullivan - Faculty advisor; Deanna Robertson- President; William Schmidt- Reporter; Brittany Verberne- Treasurer.**



Louisiana Psychological Association

# Louisiana Psychological Association

**Advancing  
psychology as a  
science, profession,  
and as a means of  
promoting health,  
education, and  
human welfare**

**Louisiana Psychological Association  
c/o Checkmate Strategies  
P.O. Box 80053  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-0053  
E-mail: [sheath72@gmail.com](mailto:sheath72@gmail.com)**

## LPA At Work For You:



**Your LPA membership supports the profession of psychology by:**

- Establishing and maintaining high standards of competence, training and ethical conduct.
- Safeguarding the interest of the profession and the public.
- Working with the many state agencies and regulatory boards, including the State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Insurance.
- Representing psychologists' interest with managed care and insurance companies, and health plans about the importance of employee mental health benefits.
- Representing psychology in the State Capitol and being the unified voice on issues affecting psychology.
- Representing you on governance and policy decisions with in the American Psychological Association.
- Safeguarding the freedom of scientific inquiry, teaching and professional practice.

### Benefits of Membership

- Annual Convention
- Discount Continuing Education Rate
- Developing Academic Committee
- Developing Diversity Committee
- Early Career Psychologist Program
- Fall Conference
- Forensic Consultation
- Networking Opportunities
- Legislative Advocacy
- Online Referral Service
- Online Membership Directory
- Member Listserv
- Special Interest Groups
- Website