**Louisiana Psychological Association**

**Executive Council Meeting**

**Saturday, October 22, 2016**

**Official Minutes**

The Louisiana Psychological Association Executive Committee met on Saturday October 22, 2016 at the home of Dr. Kim VanGeffen in New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Call to Order and Introductions**

LPA President Dr. Lucinda DeGrange called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

The following persons were in attendance:

Lucinda DeGrange, Ph.D. – President, Co-chair of Legislative Committee

Julie Nelson, Ph.D. – President Elect, Chair of Convention Committee

Gail Gillespie, Ph.D. – Secretary, Continuing Education Chair

Charles Burchell, Ph.D. – Treasurer, Chairman of Finance committee

William “Gig” Costelloe, Ph.D. – Director, Chair of IO Consulting and Psychology Committee

Joe Tramontana, Ph.D. – (Tentative) Chair of Workman’s Compensation Committee and

Representative of Louisiana Commission on Prevention of Opioid A

Kim VanGeffen, Ph.D. – Director, Professional Affairs Chair

Constance Patterson, Ph.D. – Director, Chair of Academic and Scientific Committee

Fernando Pastrana, Ph.D. – Diversity Chair

Mike Chafetz, Ph.D. – Representative of Ethics Committee, LPA appointee to Spinal Cord and Traumatic Brain Injury

Lacey Seymour, Ph.D. – Past President, Legislative Co-Chair, Elections Chair

Michele Larzelere, Ph.D. –Federal Advocacy Coordinator, Incoming LPA COR Representative (effective January 1, 2017)

Not present:

Bryan Gros, Ph.D. – Membership Chair, Social Media Chair

Darlyne Nemeth, Ph.D. – APA Council of Representatives

Carolyn Weyand, Ph.D. – Ethics Chair

Michelle Moore, Ph.D. – Early Career Psychologist

Special Committee Chairs – not present

Rafael Salcedo – Community Psychology

Alan Coulter – School Psychology

The following staff attended:

Cindy Bishop, Executive Director

Michael Willis, Checkmate Strategies

9:00 AM - Dr. DeGrange called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Gillespie stated that she emailed the minutes from the July 2016 in the middle of the week and had received edits from Dr. van Geffen. Dr. DeGrange stated that the minutes will be sent out next week to the EC, with the edits, for approval via electronic vote.

**Social Media** – Dr. Gillespie provided an update about the website. Sarah Heath is working with the Membership Committee for input as she works toward converting the current LPA website, hosted by Homestead, over to a cloud-based platform through Wild Apricot.

**President’s Report** – Dr. DeGrange reported on the 2016 Fall Workshop held October 8, 2016. Dr. DeGrange stated that the workshop was very successful and that LPA received rave reviews on Dr. Charles Zeanah and Dr. Paula Zeanah as the keynote presenters.

**President-Elects’ Report** - Dr. Julie Nelson stated that she emailed everyone the convention update. (See Appendix I) She stated that the Convention Committee will use social media and community building.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Dr. Charles Burchell reported that LPA’s finances are still in the black. He reported that the Fall Workshop netted $2,000. Cindy Bishop reported that LPA is now 100% debt free. She reviewed the LPA Finance Report dated 9/30/2016 and the Statement of Financial Position.

Cindy Bishop stated that the Finance committee met two weeks ago. Detailed statements can be sent monthly to the Executive Council. Ms. Bishop stated that LPA cannot rely on continuing to obtain APA grants. LPA applied for and received an APA grant in the amount of $11,000 this year. Dr. Nelson requested the recommendation letter from APA of the breakdown. Ms. Bishop reported that the APA included funding for a board retreat, facilitated by an outside facilitator. The board retreat proceeds need to be spent or returned to APA. Ms. Bishop said $1,000 was spent for a list of psychologists’ emails and the marketing firm, Averick Media, agreed to redo the list to only include psychologists. Dr. Nelson suggested that we put on new business to discuss funding for the website. Dr. Gig Costelloe inquired about the lobbyist’s expense. Dr. DeGrange explained that Kevin Hayes functions as the LPA lobbyist and that he is well-respected and works well with the LPA Executive Director and the LPA leadership.

Dr. DeGrange discussed how she and Dr. Seymour, as legislative co-chairs, have been attending meetings of various state agencies and organizations, including BESE. Recently, she attended a meeting of the Juvenile Justice Coalition and she posted an invitation on the LPA list serve to involve other LPA members who are interested in juvenile justice. Dr. DeGrange stated that Ms. Bishop is of great value because of her connections with legislators. Dr. Lacey Seymour reported that she has recently attended the Louisiana Department of Education Task force on school discipline and the DOE Superintendents meeting on ESSA.

Dr. Nelson discussed getting membership more involved as psychologists who can contribute in the community. Dr. James Gilmore, Director of the Governor’s Children’s Cabinet, attended the Fall Workshop after Ms. Bishop asked him to attend. Ms. Bishop serves on this board. Dr. DeGrange asked Dr. Gilmore to consider adding two psychologists to the Children’s Cabinet Advisory Board. The CCAB is a governor-appointed board.

**Executive Director’s Report** – Ms. Bishop reported that on Monday October 17th, she attended the Children’s Cabinet Advisory Board. Her term as CCAB chairman ended on Monday. She asked that psychologists can be a tremendous resource to BESE relative to the Suspension and Expulsion Task Force. Ms. Bishop reported that Carmen Weisner, who is also on the CCAB, offered the resources of LCSWs. She reported that on Thursday, October 20h, she attended the first meeting of the Governor’s Every Child Succeeds Act commission. ESSA is a new federal law that replaces the No Child Left Behind Act and allows school districts to have more autonomy is designing school accountability programs. Ms. Bishop reported that she made a push at the meeting for psychologists to be afforded the opportunity to be a resource to the Task Force. She said that she will send information to the LPA membership on the dates and times of these public meetings so that more psychologists can get involved and participate in public policy decision making.

**Membership Committee** – In his absence, Dr. Gros asked Dr. Costelloe to present the report of the committee. Dr. Costelloe distributed the LPA Membership Committee recommendations for dues restructuring. Dr. Gros did a lot of work researching the dues structure of neighboring states. Cindy Bishop also presented financial information at the behest of Dr. Gros to demonstrate the financial implications of lowering LPA dues in accordance with the recommendations. Dr. Costelloe asked for a compromise to offer additional incentives to contribute to the growth and retention of LPA members.

The following motion was made and adopted by unanimous vote of the Executive Council:

**RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Psychological Association approves a new membership category called Early Career Psychologists and that the annual membership dues shall be $125 per year, and further be it RESOLVED, that eligibility for the ECP membership category is for those who are within three years of licensure.**

The following motion was made and adopted by unanimous vote of the Executive Council:

**RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Psychological Association approves making an investment of a one-time free membership to students enrolled in graduate psychology programs, including those students who are completing internships.**

Dr. DeGrange stated that in the past, the LPA EC discussed the notion of the Annual Convention Poster Contest winner being invited to participate in the APA State Leadership Conference (SLC) held in the spring; however, one must be a designated APAGS to attend SLC. Michael Willis recommended that the LPA EC adds a student to serve as a representative on the LPA Executive Council.

The following motion was made and adopted by unanimous vote of the Executive Council:

**RESOLVED that the LPA EC directs the ECP committee to evaluate the concept of adding a student representative to serve on the LPA EC and to report their recommendations to the LPA EC. Further, be it RESOLVED, that the student representative’s participation in SLC should ideally be funded by APA.**

**Continuing Education Committee** – Dr. Gillespie reported that for the past few years, LPA has been inviting LPCs and LCSWs to LPA CE functions and applying for CE credit to offer to LPCs and LCSWs in hopes of collaborating with these factions. Dr. Patterson suggested that we explore other ways to collaborate that don’t involve offering CE credits to attend our meetings. LPA is not attracting LPCs and LCSWs to our meetings because they have their own CE offerings. Dr. Fanning offered to assist on the CE committee. Dr. Gillespie reported that the LPA recently approved CE credit for the Bridge Center and that Dr. Nemeth is in the process of submitting a CE application for approval of CE credits for the Emotional Resiliency Workshops.

Dr. Nelson stated that she would like to brainstorm ways to generate additional revenue for LPA. Ms. Bishop reported that she recently applied for grant funding through the Taylor Swift Foundation.

Dr. Charles Burchell reported that Dr. Nemeth wants to propose that LPA host a workshop on April 28 for two hours with a Russian neuropsychologist who she met on her trip. She has info on Luria, who does research in neuropsychology. Dr. Tramontana indicated that Janna Martin, who works with APAIT, is from Mississippi and can come for free.

**Diversity Committee** – Dr. Fernando Pastrana reported that he contacted the former Diversity Chair Dr. Urmi Jani. She suggested SUNO as a point of contact and Dr. Pastrana has contacted Dr. Valaray Irvin. They plan to meet next week to discuss diversity issues. Dr. Pastrana announced that the Health Disparities Conference is held on March 16-18 every year.

**Ethics Committee** – Dr. Mike Chafetz attended the meeting as a representative of the Ethics Committee. He reported that the Committee met recently and has devised a draft Conflict of Interest Statement. He stated that the Ethics Committee would like the LPA Executive Council to make any revisions they want to the proposed conflict of interest statement and then have each member of the EC sign the statement. Dr. Nelson stated that corporate law requires the posting of minutes. Some members of the EC recalled that they signed a COI statement in 2010 and a whistle blower statement. The Board discussed potential conflicts of interest. Dr. DeGrange raised concerns about the appearance that The Psychology Times could be perceived by the readership to reflect the views of the Louisiana Psychological Association.

Dr. Nelson stated that she has grappled with that and does not wish to be the official spokesperson of the LPA during her term as President. She also stated that she does not want to lobby and that she wants to keep a low profile. Dr. DeGrange pointed out that the LPA Bylaws stipulate that the LPA president serves as the official spokesperson of the LPA. Dr. Nelson suggested that maybe LPA should get legal advice regarding this. The EC asked Ms. Bishop to look through the archived records to see if the LPA has a COI and a Whistle Blower policy. Meanwhile, Dr. Chafetz agreed to send an electronic copy of the Conflict of Interest statement being recommend by the LPA Ethics Committee and asked the EC to consider revising and signing it.

Professional Affairs Committee – Dr. Kim VanGeffen reported on LSBEP activity. She reported that the board will be conducting an all day, long range planning meeting and plans to attend. She will have an opportunity to provide input from LPA. Dr. VanGeffen reported that the LPA’s relationship with LSBEP is going well.

Federal Advocacy – Dr. Michele Larzerlere reported that the APA is continuing to try to identify key contacts for congressional leaders. The APA is also trying to establish relationships with graduate students. The APA is encouraging at state psychological associations to become part of a mentorship program and to partner with graduate students so that they can advocate for psychology at the national level. We were assigned some grad students. Cindy reported that she recently attended an event for U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy. During his opening remarks, Dr. Cassidy praised the Louisiana Psychological Association for coming to Washington DC and advocated for his mental health bill.

**Old Business** – Dr. DeGrange reported that she and Dr. Gillespie recently attended a meeting at the N.O. Convention and Visitors Bureau. The NOCVB is in the process of composing a letter to APA President Dr. Tony Puente to try to get the APA convention back to New Orleans. Dr. Joe Tramontana recently spoke with Dr. Puente and he said that he would love to bring the APA Annual Meeting back to New Orleans.

**Emotional Resiliency Workshops** – Dr. Charles Burchell reported that workshops are scheduled for adults on the first three Saturday in November and that participation is limited to 40 people, per workshops. Additionally, three workshops are scheduled for children on the first three Saturdays of December. Psychologists will conduct the workshops and the first training session is on October 29th in Baton Rouge. All the Emotional Resiliency Workshops will be held at the Baptist Church on Florida Blvd. The Advocate is doing an interview with Dr. Nemeth.

**Election to replace Amy Henke** – Dr. Lacey Seymour, acting as elections chair, reported that the LPA EC has two options: hold an election to fill the rest of Dr. Henke’s term or solicit nominations from the LPA membership and allow the EC to appoint a replacement. It was discussed that since Dr. Pastrana was a top vote-getter, that he be considered as a replacement for Dr. Henke. Additionally, Dr. Tramontana offered to serve out the unexpired term through July 1. Dr. Seymour stated that she will send a notice out on the LPA list serve to solicit nominations and will bring them back to the EC for further consideration.

New Business - The next meeting of the LPA Executive Council will be held on Saturday January 7, 2017 at 9:00 at the home of Dr. Kim VanGeffen.

Dr. Tramontana reported that president of the Mississippi Psychological Association recently approached him about the idea of MPA and LPA co-hosting a convention. Dr. Tramontana stated that LPA hosted with MPA twice in the past with great attendance. The MPA annual meeting is usually held in September, so the idea of co-hosting the Fall Workshop is a possibility. The EC directed Cindy Bishop to follow-up with the Executive Director of the Mississippi Psychological Association.

Dr. Nelson made a motion that we take all committee work off listserv and only do business of the council, and limit EC meetings to that which is important to the entire group. Dr. DeGrange will post guidance to the listserv. Dr. Julie Nelson stated that there is a conflict of interest in the ED role. According to Keesey’s Rules, when one has a conflict of interest, the rule requires one to recues themselves. Dr. Nelson said that EC meeting should not be the presentation of committee reports, but should be a platform to solve problems.

The meeting ended at 12:00.