

April 04, 2020

Executive Council Virtual Quarterly Meeting

Present:

W Alan Coulter, Ph.D

Bridget Sonnier-Hillis, Ph.D

Kim VanGeffen, Ph.D

Lucinda DeGrange, Ph.D

Amanda Raines, Ph.D

Chris Parkinson, Ph.D

William “Gig” Costelloe, Ph.D

Matt Holcomb, Ph.D

Erin Reuther, Ph.D

ValaRay J Irvin, Ph.D

Guest:

Courtland Chaney, Ph.D

Randy Lemoine

**Introductions and Governance of Meetings:**

NOTE: I did not join the meeting until 10:27am at that point, Dr. Nelson was discussing where LPA was in regards to the Annual Convention. At date she had not connected with the hotel about the deposit or moving forward with the convention because she was waiting to see what decisions the Governor would make about the “stay at home” restrictions. Dr. Nelson did share her thoughts about the recent webinar; there were 18 participants in attendance, twelve of whom who requested the tapes of the webinar. Dr. Nelson commented that she felt the webinar or any in the future might be good recruiting tools for LPA.

**Committee Reports:**

**Legislative & Governmental Affairs:** Dr. Reuther began with a discussion of SB 458 and her perspective of how the LSBEP responded to feedback and collaboration from others, including members of LPA. The two major focuses were: 1. Forming of an ad hoc committee entitled the Legislative Collaborative Committee (LCC) whose membership would be made up of three members each from LPA, LAMP, and School Psychology and, whose purpose would be to review SB 458 and offer comments. Two, that public comments of the Board would not continue without all parties coming to a consensus. Dr. Reuther then shared that because of the COVID-19 pandemic the Legislatures had decided not to proceed with their regular session but that the session still would conclude June 30th. At that time there must be a balance budget to present. Dr. Reuther wasn’t sure if this meant that any bills proposed for this year would have to be delayed until next year or, if there would be a “special session” called. Specific to the ad hoc LCC she felt it was a good relationship building strategy that seemed to be inclusive of LPA concerns. Dr. Coulter agreed to inform Ms. Jamie Monic of the three representatives from LPA later this evening; they are, Drs. Reuther, Holcomb, and VanGeffen.

**Professional Affairs:**  Dr. VanGeffen reported that LPA received $5000 more in this year’s grant than last year! The EC congratulated Dr. VanGeffen for her continued work in securing funding in this area. Dr. Nelson then shared some concerns regarding possible hardships for members during this pandemic. There were discussions around reinstating “century membership level,” allowing members to file for “hardship” with paying dues, as well as questioning whether LPA could offer something similar to “forbearance” for members having difficulties. Dr. VanGeffen suggested surveying the membership in order to collect data on the impact of the pandemic on them.

Dr. Raines shared highlights from the DC PLC meeting she and Dr. Reuther attended. In addition to having the opportunity to meet some APA leaders from around the states, they were able to meet and chat with representatives about the importance of protecting the practice of psychology, as well as various social justice concerns. They both agreed that it was a very educational and enlightening trip.

**Treasure’s Report:** Dr. Costelloe reviewed his submitted report to the EC; there was $5,000 taken from the saving account to go towards the convention cost. The lobbying cost increased from $6600 to $7500. According to Dr. Costelloe, to date LPA has $47,408.09 in its checking account, and $21,568.16 in its saving; a total of $68,976.60. In addition, LPA has the $12,000 Grant Dr. VanGeffen secured. Dr. Costelloe moved to approve a budget of $1000 for webpage design needs. *Motion passed without dissent.*

**Communications :** Dr. Parkinson thanked everyone who has volunteered to work with the committee and stated he feels very positive about the direction of the work at this point. The committee continues to work on various links, for example, the find a psychologist link. Dr. Parkinson is hopeful that the site will “go live” in May.

Concerns shared were: the webpage needs an official statement on diversity. The new chair of the Diversity is Dr. Stephanie Grant of Xavier University of Louisiana. Dr. Parkinson stated he would contact Dr. Grant and ask for a statement on diversity and present to the EC during our April meeting. He anticipates the statement being on the webpage by May. Additional concerns were the placement of sponsorships, and CEP application fee. In the matter of the former, it was suggested that all sponsorships be placed on the convention page and, in the latter, it was suggested that the recommendation to increase the CEP application fee to $150, as well as asking the convention committee to approve CEP requests, should be brought back to the committee by Dr. Raines for discussion.

**Membership and Membership Services:** Dr. Holcomb reported that he has been busy reviewing other state organizations descriptions and roles of various levels of memberships as well as services they provide. He agreed to contact Dr. Randall Lemoine to learn of his continued interest on this committee. Dr. Holcomb has been busy making connections with various groups to interest them in joining LPA. He will be meeting with LSU clinical faculty, and recently presented at LAMP meeting; his topic was the “Role of Sleep.” Lastly, he shared the following about current membership numbers:

Areas Numbers

Full 41

Students 10

Academics 11

ECP 9

Not renewed 71

The cut-off for renewals is February 15, 2020; seven days before purging Dr. Holcomb will contact members to remind them to renew their memberships. He will also send out “thank you” card to new members.

**Convention and Education:**  Dr. Nelson reported that as of today she hadn’t spoken with the Sheraton regarding the deposit, or whether LPA will select a later date. She commented that she wanted to wait until the Governor’s May 8th Press Conference before making a definitive decision, however, it is unlikely that there will be a Spring Conference this year. Instead she has been thinking about offering several webinars to the general membership. Some topics could be teleassessment by Pearson, self-care for mental health professionals, etc.

The meeting re-adjourned at 1:01pm after lunch:

Drs. Randy Lemoine, and Matt Holcomb chair of Membership and Membership Services: shared LPA’s membership total; to date there appears to be 215 members “listed,” with 46 showing as “unpaid.” Discussion occurred around how best to reach out to those members who appear to be “unpaid” and seek their intentions to either pay or be removed from the LPA roster. Dr. Reuther thought that given our current situation, i.e., the pandemic, we should wait until December before removing anyone from the listserv. Dr. Holcomb was thanked by the EC for sending “thank you” notes to those members who were first time signees, and those who renewed their memberships.

Specific to LPA’s official address; a motion was made by Dr. Holcomb to make Dr. VanGeffen’s address the permanent and official address for LPA business.  *Motion passed without dissent.*

**Public Affairs:** Drs. Courtland Chaney, and Bridget Sonnier Hillis submitted a previous written report to the EC but the following three committees were highlighted:

1. Speakers Bureau- a list of volunteers are listed on the LPA website and information on how to access them located there;
2. Disaster Response Network (DRN)- currently inactive but can be activated as needed.
3. Diversity and Advocacy- Dr. Stephanie Grant has agreed to serve as APA Diversity Delegate for LPA this year.

Recent events:

Dr. Sonnier-Hillis partnered with Pennington Wellness Day for Women on February 15, 2020 and provided 94 depression screenings. If individuals needed further assistance, Dr. Sonnier-Hillis made appropriate referrals. Representing LPA, Dr. Sonnier-Hillis has also agreed to participate in a Men’s Health event on August 22, 2020. She requested assistance from other EC members who could volunteer on that day. Overall, Dr. Sonnier-Hillis thought the health fair was a great opportunity for LPA to provide public education about depression, treatment options, and where to find them. Perhaps most importantly, it was a great opportunity for LPA to serve and give hope to those most in need.

Dr. Coulter introduced a discussion on how to offer mental health services to “front-line” workers. Dr. Chaney will continue to explore. Dr. Coulter also announced that the annual Business Meeting would be held on May 29, 2020. Dr. VanGeffen motioned to adjourn at 3:21pm.

Submitted by:

Dr. ValaRay J Irvin, Secretary