

Louisiana Psychological Association

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Louisiana Psychological
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President's Column By Bryan Gros, Ph.D.



Recently, a commission designed to make recommendations for the licensure of Behavior Analysts (BAs) completed their work. The vast majority on this commission did not want to touch BA licensure by the psychology board with a ten foot pole. Frankly, I was not surprised. Recent history has, unfortunately, given psychology a bad reputation in Louisiana. To be fair, this perception has been with a small number of groups.

The words "bullies" and "power hungry" have been used. Much of this has roots in the incessant

conflicts between our own licensing board (LSBEP) and the Louisiana Professional Counselors Board of Examiners. To make matters worse, after the regulation of all psychology practice for prescribing psychologists was transferred to the medical board, there was considerable outrage among psychologists, understandably so. The perception of some was that not only does "psychology" pick on others, but they pick fights amongst themselves.

I recently approached the Louisiana Counselors Association, the professional association for LPCs, LMFTs, Substance Abuse Counselors, and others. I was subsequently invited to, and attended, a meeting with their core executive board. My visit had no agenda, other than to begin a friendly dialogue and

create opportunities for collaboration. I also wanted to get input on what psychology could do to improve relationships within the broader field of behavioral health. I plan to continue this dialogue. I hope to create a position within LPA to serve as a liaison to other state associations and professions. As I write this column, I have a meeting tomorrow with the leader of the Louisiana Behavior Analysis Association with the same broad goals.

Is this even important, some might ask? Well, in my opinion, coalition-building is vitally important. Psychology can no longer operate in a vacuum, continuing to perpetuate the negative perceptions that some have. But have no doubt, I represent LPA and have the interests of psychology in mind. Legislatively, we con-

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"Recent history has, unfortunately, given psychology a bad reputation in Louisiana."



President's column (continued from p. 1)

tinue to improve our reputation. No longer the "difficult" ones, LPA and psychology are once again being recognized as proactive players at the capital. Much of this can be attributed to the psychology PAC, which is two years in the making, our lobbyist, Kevin Hayes, and the legislative team led by Dr. Alicia Pellegrin. I think LPA

can continue to strengthen its legislative image by being on the lookout for opportunities to collaborate with other professions on legislative issues. What better way to send the message to the capital that psychology knows how to work with others? Of course, we will continue to vigorously protect our own pro-

fession.

Also, in the interest of bolstering the image or perception of psychology, previous executive councils have discussed the "branding" of psychology. Well, it's time to act on this. The current EC has been very action-oriented and more creative than ever. I

plan to have this as a running agenda item and hold us to task. Re-branding psychology will likely entail a greater emphasis on educating the public. As a very honest and vocal LPA member, Dr. Tommy Hannie once said "Psychology is more than just health care."



EC members met for an extended strategic planning session and regular meeting on February 2.



Notes From Your Executive Council Meeting! By John Fanning, PhD, President-Elect



The LPA Executive Council met for an extended session at Dr. Alicia Pellegrin's office on Saturday, February 2. This meeting covered both regular organizational business and strategic planning issues. Our new executive director, Mr. David White, joined us for this meeting. Dr. Carolyn Weyand and Dr. Bob Storer could not be present for the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Bryan Gros. Minutes were read and approved.

Dr. Gros gave the President's report, which included a sizable list of topics and activities. He announced that he has been in touch with his counterpart in the Louisiana Counseling Association, and has been invited to attend LCA's next Executive

Council meeting later this month. He said that he hopes we will be able to achieve a less acrimonious relationship with them, with avenues for communication established between the two groups. He also reported that he has an upcoming meeting with Dr. Grant Gautreaux, leader of the behavior analysts' group.

Dr. Gros informed the EC that Dr. Phil Griffin had been the leading vote recipient for the open seat on the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists, garnering a strong majority of all votes cast. As has been the case with previous elections, there was agreement that we need to contact the Governor's office in support of the winning candidate, since there have been multiple occasions in which candidates strongly supported by psychologists in the state have not been placed on the Board.

Dr. Gros also informed us that the Board has refused LPA's request for the Board to cover expenses associated with elections for Board seats. This is an issue

for LPA since our financial situation has been tight, and there are expenses involved with the elections, including \$386 for this recent election. We will probably move to online voting in the future to minimize election-related expenses.

Relations with LSBEP were the subject of discussion in a number of contexts. The EC has had a representative at recent Board meetings, which, in most cases,

has been Dr. Kim VanGeffen, chair of LPA's Professional Affairs Committee. This is valuable for a number of reasons. Dr. Gros noted the fact that we have sometimes received important information from the Board only at the last minute, as with the proposed changes to continuing education rules a few months ago. There was little time for psychologists to respond to the proposed rule changes, though psychologists were active in doing so once notified of the planned rule change. Mr. White recommended making a

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EC Members, including Drs. Gros and Fanning (pictured with Executive Director, Mr. David White), engaged in extensive discussion of the organization's strategic goals.



Notes from Your EC Meeting... (continued from page 3)

liaison with the Board an organizational priority for LPA.

Dr. Gros reported that we are supporting the Active for Autism Walk in April, to which several members of the EC are committing donations. This is part of LPA's efforts to raise its profile and achieve greater public and community outreach.

In this context, a number of upgrades to LPA's social media presence and listserv mechanisms were approved by the EC.

There was discussion at the last EC meeting about how best to structure a Facebook page, and with what level of openness to the public. Dr. Gros reported that he discussed the Facebook issue with a consultant, who recommended a strong social media presence for LPA and a Facebook page which is open to the public. APA uses this basic approach. There will be some rules and moderation of content. The EC also approved setting up LPA accounts on Twitter and Linked-in.

In addition, Mr. White recommended that LPA change its listserv



EC members review the proposed LPA social media policies and other agenda items.

hosting, moving both the member and EC listservs. An additional listserv, specific to legislative affairs, was also recommended. This was approved by the EC.

Mr. White discussed other ways in which LPA could become a more flexible organization, able to respond more rapidly and adaptively. In light of this discussion, the EC voted to streamline the new member application and approval procedures. (We have had a sizable number of new members, many of whom are student members.) He also recommended ways

we could potentially attract more academic participation in LPA, such as the development of a refereed journal. He also suggested we consider distributing an e-publication to members, succinctly summarizing current professional developments and recent research.

The EC reviewed our representation on various Louisiana state boards and commissions. Dr. Mike Chafetz has been approved for the Louisiana Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund. As of the meeting date, Dr. Marc Zimmermann

“...a number of upgrades to LPA's social media presence and listserv mechanisms were approved by the EC.”

has not heard whether his proposed appointment to the Louisiana Worker's Compensation Advisory Council (submitted last June!) has been approved. There is an open position on the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund Board, since the previous psychologist on the board is no longer in the state.

The EC also reviewed LPA's representatives

Notes from Your EC Meeting... (continued from page 4)

to APA positions. Dr. Storer succeeded Dr. Darla Burnett as Federal Advocacy Coordinator. Dr. Tiffany Jennings has been nominated as Rural Health Coordinator, and Dr. Karen Slaton nominated for Women in Psychology.

Dr. Gros talked about the importance of making LPA a bigger tent for psychologists (and future psychologists) in the state. Developing ways to promote this process was the subject of an active discussion at the meeting. The EC voted to establish an Academic Committee (with Dr. Karen Kopera-Frye and Dr. Bridget Sonnier-Hillis as committee members), and a Student Advisory Committee

(with Phyllis Pitre and Lea Barilleaux). The EC also voted to create a Disaster Coordination Committee.

A considerable amount of discussion was devoted to budgetary issues. Mr. White prepared a spreadsheet showing budgeted versus actual financial figures for 2013, which showed a likely substantial deficit. This led to discussion of various means by which we could alleviate this outflow through curtailed expenditures. Some members expressed concern about the potential effects of some of the cuts suggested. Dr. Wes Brockhoeft noted that we have recently received a CAPP grant which would very significantly

relieve the financial situation, with another grant proposal awaiting approval. Mr. White also suggested we seek additional funding through the APA Insurance Trust. The EC also talked about other means of generating revenue, particularly involving continuing education offerings. Dr. Darlyne Nemeth suggested offering CEUs for presentations at some of the regional psychology groups, such as the groups in Baton Rouge and New Orleans. She also suggested mini-CE events, such as lunch events in various regional locations. Online Academy has also been a good revenue source, and Mr. White said that his group could help with future Online Academy events.

Dr. VanGeffen reported that Dr. Lacey Seymour, who has been LPA's representative

“Dr. Gros talked about the importance of making LPA a bigger tent for psychologists (and future psychologists) in the state.”

to the Applied Behavior Analysis Work Group, has succeeded in keeping language in the proposed ABA legislation which would effectively retain our scope of practice to include applied behavior analysis, though not the title itself. This news was viewed positively by EC members, since there has been concern that the BAs might well try (via their legislative supporters) to restrict that aspect of our scope of practice.

Dr. Pellegrin updated the EC about the BA issue, as it pertains to the upcoming legislative session. She reported that the BAs have an ally in the legislature who could attempt to introduce legislation in the upcoming session which would, if passed, be adverse to psychology



EC Members consider budgetary constraints and possible new sources of revenue for the organization.



Notes from Your EC Meeting... (continued from page 5)

as a profession. (Since the EC meeting, however, there have reportedly been developments which could make that much less likely to occur.)

We also talked about the Spring Convention, which will be in May,

and will involve two days rather than three. There was also discussion of the fall conference, which may be expanded. This developmental process is chaired by Dr. Paula Zeanah, who discussed areas of emphasis for the fall

event.

The meeting continued until mid-afternoon, as planned. An exceptionally large number of issues were considered in this meeting, and an unusually large number of measures passed. This is a peri-

od of change within the organization on a number of fronts. I hope that these will be positive developments for our members, and that this process can be further advanced by the input and participation of LPA members.

From the Continuing Education Committee



Save the dates! Plans are shaping up for the 2013 Spring Convention, which will take place in Baton Rouge May 30-June 1. Topics will span contemporary clinical issues and pressing professional concerns, and will include the annual LPA business meeting. There will be plenty of opportunities for attendees to get to know their colleagues, share ideas, and to continue the work of developing psychology as a strong and active presence and profession in Louisiana! We need YOU to be there!

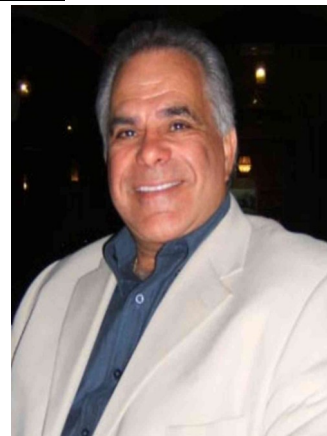
The CE committee is also exploring expansion of CE opportunities, including ongoing development of the highly rated (but under-utilized) LPA On-Line Academy, extending continuing education opportunities to other mental health professionals, and supporting regional psychology educational activities. As soon as we have more information on the Spring Convention and other activities, we will let you know!

From the Public Affairs Committee

Joe Tramontana, Ph.D.

Dr. Tramontana announced that he continues to forward to LPA members the reports from APA's Public Affairs forum titled "Public Access." He welcomed Dr. Sherry Dessel's presence at the meeting, noting that when he first became a board member and took over as Public Affairs chair, then-president Griffin explained that the Public Education Campaign (PEC), chaired by Dr. Dessel would be a sub-section of Public Affairs. It seems that APA may have a different viewpoint, that PEC should be a free-standing committee. We are looking into how this should work.

He also reported that Dr. Angie Pellegrin-Hays, who was a member of his Public Affairs Committee, had moved to Houston with her husband. She sent us a plan she was working on prior to her relocation, regarding possible outreach activities. Dr. Tramontana shared this plan with the EC. Again, he noted how these activities seemed to perhaps fit more appropriately under the rubric of PEC, reinforcing how the borders between Public Affairs and PEC are somewhat cloudy. We will work on increased clarity.





Report of the Professional Affairs Committee by Kim VanGeffen, PhD



The LPA Professional Affairs Committee is a standing committee of LPA which addresses matters relevant to the profession and science of psychology in Louisiana. This task has the potential to cover a broad range of activities and issues. As the Chair of the Professional Affairs Committee, I have been representing LPA at the Public Hour of the monthly meeting of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. It is hoped that LPA's attendance at these meetings will foster communication between LPA and LSBEP. LSBEP has recently announced a long range planning meeting which

will be held in Baton Rouge on Thursday, March 14th. I will be attending this meeting on behalf of LPA. This meeting is also open to any psychologist who wishes to attend. A tentative agenda includes topics such as multi-level licensure in psychology, Louisiana's statute on child abuse reporting, changes to continuing education rules, telepsychology and professional wills.

One of the duties of the Chair of the Professional Affairs committee is to oversee the activities of those LPA members who are appointed to Louisiana State Boards and Commissions, as well as to positions within the American Psychological Association. Several LPA members have been actively involved in issues which are critical to the provision of psychological and other health services in Louisiana. Dr. Lacey Seymour has ably represented LPA on the Applied Be-

havior Analysis Study Commission created by LA Senate Resolution 159. This Commission was charged with studying and creating a framework for the licensure and regulation of behavior analysts in Louisiana. Dr. Seymour has logged many hours attending Study Commission meetings and representing the perspective of psychology on this issue. The result of the work of the Study Commission was a report which was recently submitted to Senator

John Alario, President of the Louisiana Senate. The Study Commission voted to place the regulation of Applied Behavior Analysts under the Louisiana Licensed Professional Counselors Board, even though LPA strongly advocated the position that applied behavior analysis falls within the scope of practice of psychology. As a result, Dr. Seymour and LPA President, Dr. Bryan Gros, crafted a dissenting opinion which has been included with the report submitted to Senator Alario. This opinion presented a case for placing the licensure and regulation of ap-



EC members discuss regulatory issues.

“LSBEP has recently announced a long range planning meeting which will be held in Baton Rouge on Thursday, March 14th.”



Report of the Professional Affairs Committee... (continued from p. 7)

plied behavior analysts under the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists rather than the LPC board. LPA will be monitoring any legislation which is drafted in order to ensure that such legislation has no adverse effect on the scope of practice of psychology in Louisiana. Until the actual legislation is drafted, it is not certain under which board the regulation of applied behavior analysis will be placed. In any case, it is not anticipated that any legislation will require psychologists who practice applied behavior analysis to be regulated by any board other than LSBEP for this part of their practice. Dr. Jesse Lambert has taken the lead on an LPA Task Force which is addressing the issue of Medicaid reimbursement under Magellan Behavioral Health. There was concern that the new

contract with Magellan would negatively impact the provision of psychological services to clients within the Office of Juvenile Justice. There was concern that Magellan has stated that they would not authorize psychological testing even if such services were required by legal mandate. Magellan was also asserting the position that a "90801 interview" was sufficient and equivalent to a psychological evaluation. This would severely curtail the use of psychological testing by the courts. In addition,

certain tests might be excluded such as intelligence and academic testing or any testing which was of a forensic nature. Dr. Lambert recently reported to the Executive Council that progress has resulted from this Task Force in that the Courts have been directly ordering psychological evaluations. Dr. Lambert is in the process of attempting to organize a meeting with the Juvenile and Family Court Association in Baton Rouge. Finally, Dr. Aaron Armelie represents LPA on the Louisiana

HIV, AIDS and Hepatitis C Commission. He recently attended a Commission meeting during which there were presentations from several different groups which addressed funding issues for the provision of HIV services in Louisiana. Such services are being negatively affected by state budget cuts to health care. The Commission is seeking potential partnerships between public and private entities to ensure the continued provision of services to clients with HIV, AIDS and Hepatitis C.

"Even if the final legislation places the regulation of ABA's under the LPC licensing board, it is not anticipated that this will require psychologists who practice applied behavior analysis to be regulated by the LPC board for this part of their practice."



EC members work on legislative matters.

Legislation Matters By Alicia Pellegrin, Ph.D.

Your legislative committee has been very busy. We are still working collaboratively with the LSBEP and the Applied Behavior Analysts regarding regulatory issues. This initiative is led by Dr. Lacey Seymour, and we are making substantial progress in this area. We hope to have more detailed information for you soon.

We are also closely tracking the cuts in mental health services implicated in the Governor's new budget, including severe cuts in juvenile services (in light of Gov. Jindal's juvenile justice reform). **Dr. Jesse Lambert** and Kevin Hayes, our lobbyist, are meeting with the Governor's staff on this issue. We are very concerned about a reduction in services to those youth who need

services the most.

We have met with DHH and are engaged in ongoing discussions with them to correct errors in the reimbursement schedule. As we have indicated, the current schedule excludes psychologists from reimbursement for services that are within our scope of practice. In the current climate of reduced in mental health access, those who are most vulnerable can hardly afford another obstacle to obtaining services. We have heard from DHH that they are getting closer to correcting these problems and we will certainly keep you informed. We have learned that they have



already corrected the error regarding the discrepancy between Inde-

pendent Psychologists and Medical Psychologists for the same services (psychological testing). All psychologists are to be reimbursed at the same rate.

Our President, Dr. Gros, attended a meeting with the LPC association in order to begin building a more collaborative relationship. Due to the upcoming severe mental health budget cuts, we are likely to find ourselves on the same side of at least some issues. It is important that we work together with other mental health professionals, when appropriate.

As always, we will be tracking all bills that have to do with mental health, including a recent bill regarding the mental health history of

“Due to the upcoming severe mental health budget cuts, we [and the LPCs] are likely to find ourselves on the same side of at least some issues.”

those obtaining guns. Moreover, of course, we are ever vigilant for any legislation that involves encroachment by others on our profession.

We are in process of developing a legislative listserv and one for PAC members where you can receive up-to-the-minute information that we might not otherwise wish to post on the member listserv. The upcoming session promises to be a productive one.

Remember that it is your LPA dues and your PAC contributions that will keep our legislative initiatives going. If you have not made your PAC contribution, please do so through the website now. Your contribution is critical to keeping our voice strong in the legislature.

Dr. Pellegrin and Zach (care of The Psychology Times)



Contributions to the LPA PAC can be made by mail: **Reisman and White; C/O David White; PO Box 1448; Cedar Park TX; 78630** or through the website <http://www.louisianapsychologist.org/>

Committee on Legal and Ethical Issues by Robert M. Storer, PhD



Colleagues,

LPA's Committee on Legal and Ethical Issues received the following e-mail from an LPA member on November 1st:

I am writing to pose an ethics question that has bothered me for some time now. I am aware that there are neuropsychologists who are still using the WAIS -III and WMS-III in evaluations. I am wondering if there is any problem with this practice as I thought that I understood that it is our ethical responsibility to use the most recent measures with the most recent population norms?

Another ethics question I have concerns psychological evaluations that are called, "neuropsychological evaluations" that may give some measures common to neuropsychological evaluations but the findings are only interpreted in the context of "malingering" or "effort." My question is should that evaluation be called a neuropsychological evaluation when no attempt is made to interpret brain-related cognitive function or ability? Or, should it be called more appropriately a malingering evaluation?

Thank you for your interest and attention to these questions

Some of you will recall that in the last newsletter I talked about these questions and the committee's plan to respond with an article in this edition of the newsletter. I asked that anyone with comments forward them to me so they could be included in our response. Finally, committee members discussed these questions and also solicited feedback from members of the [Psychology and Law listserv](#).

In regard to whether there is "any problem" with using an outdated measure (for the purpose of this article, "outdated," will be the term used to refer to tests that have been updated with a new version and/or new normative data, and the new version has been available for at least 1 year), the intended purpose of the measure seems to be a significant factor.

Notwithstanding that section 9.08 of the Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (EPPCC) states:

Psychologists do not base their assessment or intervention decisions or recommendations on data or test results that are outdated for the current purpose. (b) Psychologists do not base such decisions or recommendations on tests and measures that are obsolete and not useful for the current purpose.

The committee received some feedback that, in clinical work, it may be a defensible practice for a psychologist to use an outdated measure to further therapeutic rapport, or to identify specific problem areas to be addressed in therapy, because they know this instrument, are well versed in the validity research, and know it will get them the information they need, even if there is a newer version of the measure available.

Committee on Legal and Ethical Issues (Continued from Page 10)

The committee also specifically discussed the use of “outdated” measures for what are called “embedded indicators” of exaggerated and/or fabricated deficits. For example, as described by Rogers in *Clinical Assessment of Malingering and Deception* (pg 243):

Two variants of atypical test pattern analysis have been used to detect feigning on the WAIS-R and WAIS-III.... A DFA from WAIS-R subtests, which was subsequently extended to the WAIS-III.... The second pattern analytic approach to the WAIS-R and WAIS-III involves the relationship between Digit Span (DS) and Vocabulary (V) subtests.

If one needed to give a WAIS or WMS, and they were concerned about effort and/or feigned deficits, it certainly would be economical to use this kind of “embedded indicator.” However, given that the previous versions of these measures were published in 1997, in order to get accurate assessment information one would have to use the newer versions. Additionally, while it has not always been the case in the past, there are a number of measures now available to specifically assess effort and the possibility that an examinee is attempting to exaggerate and/or fabricate difficulties.

The opinion of the committee, therefore, is that in general, using outdated measures is not consistent with ethical practice.

Regarding the question of whether a psychological evaluation should be labeled “Neuropsychological Evaluation,” when it only addresses effort and/or malingering; the committee agreed that an evaluation should NOT be labeled as Neuropsychological unless it includes two or more neuropsychological measures with valid results and has as its primary purpose the assessment of brain behavior functioning. Otherwise, it would more appropriately be labeled “Psychological Evaluation” with a section of the report labeled something like, “Assessment of Neuropsychological Functioning.” If an evaluation was intended to be Neuropsychological, but results were not valid, the report should clearly state this.

The committee recognizes that neuropsychological measures would not be interpretable if measures of effort/motivation indicated poor effort or exaggeration and/or fabrication of difficulties. In this case, as long as the intent was to perform a valid neuropsychological evaluation, and this was prevented by poor effort, a lack of engagement, or an attempt to present as more impaired than was actually the case, then labeling the report Neuropsychological Evaluation would be defensible, but again, the report should clearly state that neuropsychological measures either were not given due to concerns regarding validity, or if they were given, that the results were not valid and therefore not reported.

Finally, it should be noted that by using multiple measures of effort at different points in an examination, the examiner is better able to discriminate between data that was initially valid for interpretation vs. data obtained later in an examination that was invalid for interpretation. This kind of pattern also might indicate that other factors such as fatigue or a decrease in engagement as opposed to intent to appear more impaired than was actually the case was responsible for their atypical responding. By increasing the number of measures of effort, however, one must also remember that the likelihood of a false positive increases as well. Finally, this methodology also allows the evaluation to be identified as an (abbreviated) neuropsychological evaluation or a neuropsychological screening with a recommendation to repeat or continue the examination at a later date.

Committee on Legal and Ethical Issues (Continued from Page 11)

We hope that this information is helpful to LPA members dealing with these issues directly. If you have additional comments or questions, please feel free to contact the committee through David White, our Executive Director (lpa@louisianapsychologist.org) or through the committee chair, Bob Storer (Psychsvcs@gmail.com).

David Hale, Ph.D.

Jesse D. Lambert, Psy.D.

Rachel Stokes, Psy.D.

Robert Storer, Ph.D.

Curtis Vincent, Ph.D., M.P.

Carolyn Weyand, Ph.D.

Report of the APA Council Delegate by Darlyne Nemeth PhD, MP, MPAP

When the APA EC met in Orlando in August, 2011, there was much excitement in the air. The Good Governance Project (i.e., a possible restructuring of the leadership of the organization) was presented. All Delegates offered input utilizing a small group decision-making approach. There were three choices: 1) Incremental change, 2) Moderate change, and 3) Clean slate. A decision to support an approach to change by utilizing aspects of options 2 and 3 emerged.

Over the last six months, this approach appears to have lost momentum. The Incre-

mental change choice received the most support at this February, 2013 Council meeting. I was really surprised and caught off guard by this turn of events, especially since this project to produce governance change cost APA over one million dollars.

In fact, "surprise" seemed to be the emotional tone of the entire meeting. For example, APA's CEO, Dr. Norman Anderson, received another significant pay raise, now close to \$3/4 million, at a time when most psychologists are struggling financially. I understand that his raise was in keeping with

other Washington, D.C. CEOs, but I found this unsettling, so I took the risk to speak up. Needless to say, my comments were unpopular.

The caucus meetings – Women (C3), Rural Health (C3), Education and Training (C3), Health Care (C3), Association of Practicing Psychologists (C6), and State, Province, and Territorial Associations (C3) were quite productive.

APA seems to be hamstrung by its C3 status. Basically, APA (C3) with \$118.68 million in assets and 600+ employees represents **psychology**; whereas, APA PO (C6) with only \$4.79 million and 15.3 employees represents **psychologists**. (APA PO is the Practice Or-

ganization). This important distinction has become a major problem. I also learned that most state associations are C6s, not C3s. LPA is a C3. LPA PAC, however, is a C6. APA is considered a charitable/issues-oriented organization; whereas, APA PO is considered a political organization. The Committee for the Advancement of Professional Practice (CAPP) is a part of APA PO. We (LPA members) were lucky to receive an organizational grant of \$5,500 from CAPP. All 26 state organizations that applied for CAPP grants received something. But, we psychologists are not fully funding APA PO. Therefore, the political arm of APA is in dire straits financially. I



Report of the APA Council Delegate... (continued from p. 12)

would encourage each of you to give something...even \$10 would make a difference. Membership in APA is dwindling, but, thanks to APA's journals and electronic products, APA is holding its own.

Now, what is APA doing for you? A lot! Much without your awareness or knowledge. One important task is APA's involvement in the ICD codes from the World Health Organization (WHO). Did you know that all insurance companies automatically turn your DSM Code into an ICD code? Many psychologists are quite displeased with the forthcoming DSM-V system. One alternative is to go straight to ICD and not bother with DSM at all. APA cannot officially advocate that you do so, but APA PO can. In fact APA is fully represented on the new ICD classification systems committees. So, for now, I urge you to consider changing to ICD-9. For more information on converting DSM Codes to ICD-9 Codes, visit www.apapracticecentral.org/reimbursement/billing/icd-9-cm.aspx.

Telepsychology is now a hot topic. APA, AASPB (licensing boards), and APAIT (insurance trust) are working together to develop ethical guidelines/requirements for this new service delivery modality. They should be available for review/discussion/adoption at the 2013 APA Convention/EC Meeting in Hawaii.

Now, to the issue of delegate funding. APA pays for my expenses (plane, hotel, meals, etc) for the February meetings, but not for the August meetings. In regard to the latter, only two hotel nights are covered. That is all! The burden must either be borne by the individual EC Delegate or the State/Division that s/he represents. In August, 2012, I requested partial funding reimbursement (\$500+) from LPA to attend. In August, 2013, being that the Convention is in Hawaii, the expenses will be far great-

er. After much ado, the APA EC passed a resolution (by only one vote) to give an additional \$500 to those Delegates who are not fully funded by APA. (I was required to recuse myself from this vote.). This discussion basically included most state association and many division delegates. Currently, APA is an organization of the haves and the have nots. Some have full funding and perks. Some do not.

I was definitely in the latter category, as were most state association delegates. Sometimes I wonder if we (state association delegates) are really wanted or

merely tolerated at Council. For example, our caucus, the small State/Provisional/Territorial Associations has been redefined (without our caucus input) to include associations with a membership of 300 or less. So there is no longer a "very small" caucus and the "small" has become "large."

Our regional psychological association (e.g. Southeastern Psychological Association SEPA) requested "Observer Status" on Council with full funding for their Delegates. Since APA does not fully fund state association delegates, I spoke against the funding aspect of this issue. The motion was passed without funding. I was quite unhappy to hear regional associations charac-



Dr. Nemeth with Dr. Elizabeth Carll (Division 46 Delegate).

Report of the APA Council Delegate... (continued from p.13)

terized as 1) primarily academics, 2) financially reasonable for students to join (some dues were cited to be as low as \$30), and 3) giving undergraduates a place to present their research. Whereas, state associations were characterized as 1) primarily practitioners, 2) too expensive for students, and 3) not having programs/presentation opportunities of interest to students. I believe that I was the only delegate who tried to dispel this perception. I pointed out the many forthcoming opportunities at our May, 2013 Annual Convention. My concern is that perhaps regional associations

will eventually usurp the delegate positions that are now set aside for the state associations. Basically, I was told that the state associations, not the academic departments, had the responsibility of encouraging student involvement.

At one of the Caucus meetings, it was urged that each state association work legislatively to undo any/all laws that prevent psychologists from incorporating with physicians and/or other health care providers. I know Louisiana passed a law that only psychologists could incorporate with other psychologists in the late 70s or early 80s. This was a re-

sponse to a physician initiative that stated that physicians could only incorporate with other physicians. According to APA PO, these antiquated laws stand in the way of current integrated care models and, therefore, must be discarded. Psychologists must be free to incorporate with physicians, etc, at the practice – not just at the LLC – levels. Our lobbyist will need to look into this.

Our APA CEO, Dr. Norman Anderson, has been appointed to head a new entity, "The APA Center for Psychology and Health." Also, APA is working on a position statement on Gun/

Firearm Violence, which should be available at the August, 2013 APA EC Meeting and Convention. The need for timeliness regarding this issue is critical. This Center will work with APA PO on this topic.

Now to the Internship match debacle! When

I was in graduate school, everyone in my class got an internship. This is no longer the case. This year, 957 applicants were not matched at an internship site, which constituted approximately 24% of all applicants. This number was even more alarming for APA accredited internship sites. Of the 4,051 total applicants, only 2,431 (60%) matched with internship sites that were accredited by APA. Also, 282 positions went unfilled.

Grants have been created to combat this issue. Grants currently exist that can fund up to \$20,000 for additional internship positions. Internship sites located within Louisiana should consider applying for this money. In regard to internship funding, 82 programs applied for grants last year and 32 programs received funding, 22 of which were for new positions. More information can be obtained from the Internet (<http://www.apa.org/about/awards/internship-program-grants.aspx>).

I recommend that we invite Katherine C. Nordal, Ph.D., from APA PO to give a CE program at LPA's May, 2013 Convention. I did casually approach her about doing so, but she will need an official invitation from our Program Chair. She has an excellent understanding of the Health Care Reform Initiative that must be in place by 1/1/2014; the problems with Aetna, Humana, etc., current parity legislation, etc.

Practicing psychologists



Drs. Brockhoeft and Nemeth participate in EC discussions.



Report of the APA Council Delegate... (continued from p.14)

must now log their session time in and out and must include PQRS reviews for Medicare/Medicaid patients and others. If you don't know what PQRS means, more can be gleaned from practice.apa.org. In addition, Dr. Nordal, Executive Director for Professional Practice of the APA, can be reached at 1-800-374-2723.

Diversity Training is now included in all APA EC Meetings. According to Donald Bersoff, Ph.D., J.D., APA President, by 2040 non-hispanic whites will be the minority. Are we preparing for this change?

Lastly, Dr. Carol Goodheart, past APA President, is in the process

of completing a "Primer for Psychologists on ICD 10 Codes." It will soon be available. I suggest that we invite Dr. Goodheart to Louisiana for a CE workshop. Shifting from DSM to ICD will be no easy task. We must understand the new ICD system in order to use it effectively.

So, that's it, in a nutshell! Of course, I am presenting a very biased view –

but, I was left feeling discouraged, rather than excited by the experience.

Respectfully Submitted,
Darlyne G. Nemeth,
Ph.D., M.P., M.P.A.P.

APA Council Delegate
from Louisiana

The Louisiana Psychological Association welcomes the following new members:

Full Member

Jacquelyn Braud, Ph.D.

Affiliate Members

Stephen Anen, M.A.

Arielle Brown

Mary Fitzgerald, M.A.

Janice Huber, M.A.

Juan Rodriguez

Chelsie Songy

Hillary Benton

Stedwin Coleman

Nickholas Grant

Priscilla LeBleu

Nina Solanki, M.A.

Marlana Welch Bragg, M.A.



LPA Members in the News

The following APA members have been appointed to Louisiana State Boards and Commissions:

Aaron Armelie, PhD (HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C LA Commission)
Thomas C. Fain, PhD (LA Health Care Commission)
Michael Chafetz, PhD (LA Traumatic Head and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund, submitted)
Lacey Seymour, PhD (ABA Study Commission)



Dr. Sherry Desselle, Public Education Campaign chairperson, attended the EC meeting to discuss LPA outreach efforts.

The following psychologists represent LPA on APA Committees:

Darlyne Nemeth, PhD, MP, MPAP (Council of Representatives)
Robert Storer, PhD (Federal Advocacy Coordinator)
Sherry Desselle, PhD (Public Education Campaign; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns)
Tiffany Jennings, PsyD (Rural Health Coordinator)
Karen Slaton, PhD (Women in Psychology, submitted)
Lucinda DeGrange, PhD (Diversity Delegate)
Lacey Seymour, PhD (Early Career Delegate)

The following psychologists have been appointed by the EC to serve on LPA Committees:

Jesse Lambert, PsyD (Medicaid- Magellan, Office of Juvenile Justice Task Force)
Phyllis Pitre, BA (Student Advisory Committee)
Lea Barilleaux (Student Advisory Committee)
Karen Kopera-Frye, PhD (Academic Advisory Committee)
Bridget Sonnier-Hillis, PhD (Academic Advisory Committee)
Susan Dardard, PhD (Membership Chair)

If you are aware of other psychologists serving on LA boards and commissions, please contact Dr. Kim Van Geffen.



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In Person

Susan Dardard, Ph.D.
Membership Chair

225.784.1299

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Opportunities

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Fall Conference
Spring Convention

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LPA Website

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Run for Office

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CE Workshops
CE Webinars

Options

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Full Member: Doctorate in Psychology
Associate: Master's in Psychology
Affiliate: Student/Bachelor's in Psychology

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Exempt: 65+, 10+ year member, retired
Discount: 65+, 10+ year member, part-time
Discount: 70+, 10+ year member; part-time

CENTURY SUPPORT CLUB

Platinum: \$500 plus per year
Gold: \$250 to \$499 per year
Silver: \$100 to \$249 a year

**Louisiana Psychological Association
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Phone 512-788-0207
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The mission of LPA is
to support and advance psychology
as a science, as a profession,
and as a means of promoting health,
education, and human welfare.