

Louisiana Psychological Association

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



Although I am a fairly optimistic person, I initially approached my tenure as president of LPA with some anxiety. "So much to do and so little time." I reminded myself that it's not about the president or any one person; "It's about LPA." And LPA is not static and finite. Your state organization is dynamic; there is no finish line.

As I recently indicated to members on our listserv, I believe LPA could benefit from a long-term vision and clarity in our goals. While we certainly will continue to focus on our immediate and short-term needs and goals, I also would like us to develop a plan for where we want to be in the future.

Transparent: "Easily seen through, recognized, or detected." As most of you know, the leadership of LPA has made a strong

move towards greater transparency. I've said before that if we had the technology at our immediate disposal to live stream EC meetings, I would do so. I will not forget that we [the EC] represent the membership. YOU ALL, collectively, are LPA- not me, and not the EC alone. We want to know what members think and want from LPA. How can we improve? What are we doing well? We want to hear your thoughts and ideas. I welcome and will even solicit communication with me and with YOUR EC. Your questions or concerns WILL receive responses- if not from me, then from the appropriate persons on the EC.

The EC has already been called to task on transparency and openness. A member recently requested information that some might consider very sensitive. The first request was for financial records from specific dates and included a reference to a statute (RS 12:223 "Corporate Records and Reports"). There was discussion on our EC listserv, by some, of whether this statute applied to LPA. Some EC members voiced that it appeared to apply and some were unsure. Being a staunch advocate of transparency within LPA, this was of

less concern to me than actually meeting what I considered a legitimate and reasonable request by a dues paying LPA member. Ultimately and relatively quickly, with majority EC support, I released those records. One EC member had voiced opposition, requesting answers to additional questions. We then simply moved on. The second request involved grant applications and updates. The EC quickly voted to release this information.

Along with transparency comes accountability. Not only do I want the elected leadership (including me) to be held accountable, but we need to be. I believe we have a very good group in our Executive Council and not one of us minds being under the microscope.

I want there to be an increased focus on membership. Yes, we have heard this before. In the past, member recruitment has been the responsibility of the chair of the membership committee. I can tell you, this one person cannot and should not be solely responsible for recruiting and retaining members. This is LPA's responsibility. Each of you also represents LPA and is a "recruiter," as well. The

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"I will not forget that we [the EC] represent the membership."

President's column (continued from p. 1)

EC and membership committee have been asked to approach this issue with more creativity. We WILL make concerted efforts to be more attractive to ALL psychologists and there will be a greater emphasis on early career psychologists and students.

Yes, I have been asked several times about Act 251, specifically the resolution adopted by the membership to attempt to bring the practice of psychology by medical psychologists back under the regulation of LSBEP. As Dr. Pellegrin, our legislative chair, will echo, this will require timing, strategy, and patience. I can assure you that I and the EC will not lose sight of this resolution, as it is the membership whom we represent.

As will be noted in Dr. Fanning's newsletter article, our first EC meeting

was busy and fruitful. We seriously discussed strategic planning. We decided on an extended EC meeting to further clarify what we would like from this. I addressed a desire to explore our website layout, which I and some others believe needs some serious updating and modernization. I plan to follow-up on this, hopefully sooner than later. We also need to "get with it" and realize this is the 21st century. Social networking sites are the norm, even in large professional organizations and businesses, including many state psychological associations. Don't be surprised if LPA is soon on Facebook and Twitter.

The following Committee chairs were nominated and approved. Dr. Paula Zeanah- Continuing Education, Dr. Carolyn Weyand- Finance, Dr. Phillip Griffin- Nominations and

Elections, Dr. John Fanning- Convention. Dr. Michele Larzelere was confirmed as our Publications Chair and new newsletter editor. Dr. Robert Storer suggested a new committee, Legal and Ethical Issues, which he will chair. He also stepped down as newsletter editor and Publications Chair after serving more than two years. Bob has done a tremendous job and I am grateful that he remains on the EC. Dr. Alicia Pellegrin will continue to serve as Legislative Chair and Dr. Darlyne Nemeth as our APA Council Representative. Dr. Kim Van Geffen will continue to chair our Professional Affairs Committee and serve as our liaison to LSBEP. Dr. Joe Tramontana will stay on as chair of Public Affairs.

I would like to invite and encourage members to consider increasing your involvement in LPA. We

want you. We need you! You are LPA. We've got various committees and work groups and will find a place for you. If you are interested, please contact me at DrBryanG@aol.com. You may also contact our Executive Director, Ms. Gail Lowe, at the LPA office.

In closing, I want to remind you that I will be responsive to the membership and I will support and encourage the same from your Executive Council. I look forward to serving you and all of our LPA



Dr. Gros listening to input from other EC members.

What Really Happened at Your Executive Council meeting! By John Fanning, PhD, President-Elect



The first meeting of the new Executive Council took place on August 25, 2012 at the office of EC member Alicia Pellegrin. New president Bryan Gros chaired the meeting, which covered a wide range of topics.

After approval of meeting minutes, Dr. Gros addressed strategic planning issues. We have a number of critical questions as a profession, and for LPA, specifically, such as: Who are we as a profession and as an organization? Where do we want to go as an organization? And how do we get there? There was a good deal of discussion regarding a strategic development meeting, and options and costs associated with this.

Dr. Gros stressed the importance of membership development. In March of this year, membership fell to as low as 164 members. This has now been boosted to 198 members. Dr. Gros identified a goal of increasing membership by 30 to 50 percent in the coming

year. He also emphasized the importance of a big tent for the organization, one which will be more inclusive of academic psychologists, I/O psychologists, consulting psychologists, and students.

Another area he highlighted was expansion into social media for our organization, including Facebook, Twitter, etc. Renovating our current website is also a developmental goal.

Dr. Gros said that he plans to provide a monthly update for members on the LPA Listserv, and to eschew secrecy within the organization.

Carolyn Weyand gave the Treasurer's Report. Our current financial resources do not match projected figures. After a review of the Treasurer's Report it was decided that one of our CDs would be cashed in.

As President-Elect, I am in charge of the Spring Convention. We discussed a number of topics and potential presenters, with particular emphasis on programs for students and early-career psychologists. Methods for promoting increased member participation were also discussed.

Paula Zeanah, a new Director, is head of the Continuing Education Committee. The lineup for the fall conference is set. The LPA Online Academy has

completed an initial series of presentations, and will soon start an additional series of webinars. LSBEP is in the process of revising continuing education requirements. Of note, the number of CEUs which will be required each reporting period may increase from thirty to forty hours.

Joe Tramontana, Chair of the Public Affairs Committee, also reported. There was active discussion of ways to increase public outreach, including coordinating a series of presentations which could be given to public groups, creating a speaker's bureau, and archiving presentations as YouTube videos. These projects will serve the public interest, and will also help us to brand and promote what we do as profession-

als.

Kim VanGeffen, Chair of the Professional Affairs Committee, introduced Jesse Lambert, who has put in a great deal of time and effort on the serious issue of changes in Medicaid coverage in the state. These changes have resulted in the near-total elimination of psychological testing throughout the system. This is an extremely complex issue, involving a number of state agencies, the courts, Magellan, and a testing authorization system of gatekeepers which has been (apparently by design) a barrier rather than a gate. Dr. Lambert has gotten a commitment from the parties involved for a comprehensive meeting on the issues.

The EC plans to maintain LPA's focus on this issue, and a number of options for furthering Psychology's interests were discussed. A Medicaid Task Force was created within the Professional Affairs Committee,



Drs. Carolyn Weyand and Jesse Lambert discuss strategies for the Medicaid Task Force

What Really Happened... (continued from page 3)

which will include Drs. Jesse Lambert, Michael Chafetz, Jim Van Hook, Susan Dardard, and Wesley Brockhoeft.

The LSBEP has invited an LPA liaison to attend meetings. Dr. VanGeffen said that she would attend most of these, but there was agreement that other members would rotate coverage of the meetings, as well.

Dr. VanGeffen has been working on organizing our archival materials, and has condensed materials to be preserved from three storage boxes to a single box. These materials will be preserved in digital form.

Bob Storer is no longer publishing the e-

newsletter, a task which (as of this issue) is now in the hands of Michele Larzelere. Dr. Storer will be chairperson of a new committee focusing on ethics and forensic practice (Committee on Legal and Ethical Issues).

Dr. Susan Dardard will be Chair of the Membership Committee, and pledged active efforts to sustain and expand our current membership.

Phillip Griffin suggested a 72-hour period for EC e-voting, to exclude weekends and holidays.

Darlyne Nemeth discussed the recent APA convention, and issues and developments there. Among these was the critical topic of internship shortages. There are

simply not enough pre-doctoral internship positions for the number of students coming through doctoral programs. Even students coming through APA -accredited programs are finding themselves without internships. This has become a major issue for the profession at the national level.

Dr. Nemeth also talked about the importance of the Council of Representatives position, and also about the importance of branding and promoting our profession.

LPA continues to collect information on positions held by psychologists on state boards and commissions. Dr. Zeanah will take a position on the board of the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund. Dr. Chafetz will be on the Louisiana Traumatic Brain Injury and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund board. Dr. Marc Zimmermann is awaiting approval for a position on the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation (LWCC) board.

With regard to Legislative Affairs, Dr. Pellegrin could not be in attendance, so Dr. Dardard reported for her. Dr. Dardard identified a goal of

increasing the PAC membership to 85 members from the present 65 members. The children's PEC bill we lobbied for passed. There was extremely positive feedback regarding the effectiveness of Kevin Hayes, our lobbyist.

Dates were set for upcoming EC meetings, with the next meeting to be held on November 17, with half of the day set aside for strategic development.

"[Dr. Gros] also emphasized the importance of a big tent for the organization, one which will be more inclusive of academic psychologists, I/O psychologists, consulting psychologists, and students."



Drs. Fanning and Gros discuss LPA matters during a break in the EC meeting.



Committee on Legal and Ethical Issues

by Robert M. Storer, PhD

Colleagues, I am extremely happy to announce the formation of a committee by LPA to assist members when they have questions and/or concerns regarding legal and ethical issues. I also am honored to announce that I have been selected to be the first chairperson of this committee.

I can almost see some of you who are my friends saying, "Good deal, Bob's going to help me with my speeding ticket!" No, I'm afraid those are not the kind of legal issues with which this committee will be offering assistance. The kind of legal issues this committee will be attempting to help LPA members with are, primarily, **questions regarding the practice of forensic psychology**. That will not be the exclusive focus, however, as the committee will do its best to assist LPA members with

any professional legal issue that they have. Naturally, the committee will not be able to give legal advice, nor can it have "the answer" to any given legal situation. However, given that this committee will consist of practitioners with extensive experience in forensic psychology, the committee should be in an excellent position to be able to share relevant experience and a variety of perspectives on a wide range of professional legal issues.

In many professional associations, an ethics committee is there to monitor the behavior of its members and discipline those members who do not comply with ethical standards. **This is the exact opposite of the goal of LPA's committee on legal and ethical issues.** The goal of this committee will be to provide assistance to members with

ethical concerns, in the form of consultation. As with legal issues, the committee will not likely be able to give "the answer" to any specific ethical dilemma. However, the makeup of this committee will be such that there will be an extremely in-depth and broad range of experience in the practice of psychology in general, and in assessing and dealing with ethical issues in particular. Therefore, this committee should be an excellent resource for LPA mem-

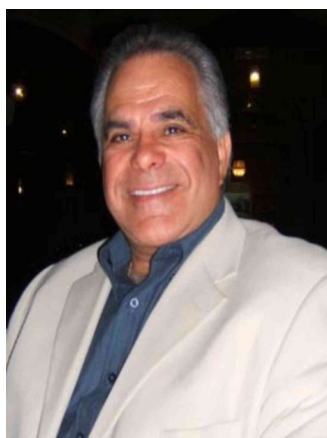
"The goal of this committee will be to provide assistance to members with ethical concerns, in the form of consultation."

bers who want to discuss and hear varying perspectives on whatever ethical issues arise for them.

Once the committee's scope has been fully defined and guidelines are established for its functioning, more information will be made available either through the newsletter, the listserv, or both.



Members of the EC listen to Dr. Storer (not shown) discuss the aims of the new Committee on Legal and Ethical Issues



From the Elections and Public Affairs Committees

Joe Tramontana, Ph.D.

Dr. Angie Pellegrin-Hays was introduced to the EC and indicated that she would assist me on the Public Affairs Committee. A vote was taken and Angie was approved to serve on this committee. She has some really fresh ideas, which we hope to implement in the not-too-distant future. Plans were for Angie, **Dr. Sherry Desselle, who heads our Public Education Campaign (a component of the Public Affairs Committee),** and me to meet as soon as possible. Hurricane Isaac interfered somewhat with the timing, but we will attempt to have such a meeting in the near future. More to come!



From the Editor...

Michele Larzelere, PhD



In Memoriam

Raymond Leslie Houck, PhD (1935-2012)

The psychology community of Louisiana sustained a significant loss with the passing of Ray Houck on August 24, 2012, after a lengthy battle with pulmonary fibrosis. Dr. Houck, a former president of LPA, was preceded in death by his wife, Henri-Etta, who was also well-known in the mental health community. Prior to earning his PhD from LSU in 1984, Dr. Houck was a member of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart for 37 years. His work as a psychologist included employment at Greenwell Springs Hospital and practice at Dawson Psychological Associates and The Psychology Group, prior to becoming Director of Psychology for Community Homes for the Eastern Louisiana Mental Health System (Jackson). During his varied career, Dr. Houck held numerous leadership positions in psychological, community service, and religious organizations. He was well-known for his devotion to charitable causes and volunteer work, as well as for his good humor and inexhaustible supply of encouragement. Raymond Leslie Houck was a man whose every interaction with others was touched by wisdom and grace. He will be missed by all who knew him. He is survived by a brother (Bishop William Russell Houck) and by his two sisters (Elizabeth Houck Hebert and Mildred Houck Reilly) and their families. Dr. Houck is also survived by two step-children (Katherine Eagle LeDoux and Robert Price Eagle) and two step-grandsons (Benjamin and William LeDoux).

Of Note...

Many of this summer's LPA Webinars are available for home study, including the following:

"Starting, Developing, and Growing Your Professional Psychology Practice"

Presenters: Michael Chafetz, PhD, Denise Newman, PhD, Kathy Robison, PhD, and Judith Steward, PhD. (2 CEs in Ethics). Fee \$40.

"Conflict Management & Creativity" Presenter: Julie Nelson, PhD, with discussant McKay Bonner, PhD. (2 CEs. Fee \$40).

"An Experiential Introduction to Acceptance & Commitment Therapy" Presenter: Emily Sandoz, PhD (1.5 CEs). Fee \$30.

"Nutrition and Mood" Presenter: Cass Nelson-Dooley, MS (2 CEs.) Fee \$40.

"Recent Developments in Dementia Research and Diagnosis" Presenter: John Fanning, PhD (2 CEs). Fee \$40.

"Current Issues in Sleep Medicine" Presenter: Denise Sharon, PhD (2 CEs). Fee \$40.

Click under **Upcoming Events** on the LPA website (www.louisianapsychologist.org) to register and gain access.





1003 Leicester Dr.

Baton Rouge,

Louisiana 70808

Phone: 225-766-0185

Fax: 225-766-0112

E-mail: lpa@louisianapsychologist.org

“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.”



Louisiana Psychological Association

Save the Date!

Saturday, October 20th will be

LPA's Fall Conference!

“Adventures on the Electronic Frontier: Ethics and Risk management in the Digital Era.”

Presented by: Jeffrey N. Younggren, Ph.D., ABPP

Earn 6 Continuing Education Credits (Ethics) and Eligibility to receive a 15% discount on Trust sponsored Professional Liability Insurance!

Location: Renaissance Hotel on Bluebonnet Blvd; Baton Rouge

Time: 9 am-4:30 pm

REGISTRATION FEES: Register by September 20th & Save

Early Bird Discount

LPA Members: \$175

Non-Members: \$250

Students: \$50

After September 20th

LPA Members: \$200

Non-Members: \$275

Students: \$75

Register online at www.louisianapsychologist.org

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES:

Participants will be able to apply basic ethical principles to evaluate risks, benefits, and appropriateness of using various electronic communication and social networking media in their professional practice in a variety of situations.

- Participants will be able to identify ethical, legal, and disciplinary trends concerning electronic communication that will allow them to anticipate, plan, and adjust their practices accordingly.
- Participants will be able to evaluate when and how to provide remote professional services, therapeutic and otherwise, to clients in a way that minimizes disciplinary risk.
- Participants will be able to understand, apply, and integrate the laws and legal principles governing remote practice within and between states.
- Participants will be able to identify various kinds of professional credentials that will enable them to increase their professional mobility.
- Participants will be able to develop amendments to their informed consent and documentation and professional consultation policies to accommodate remote practice and electronic communication.
- Participants will be able to identify important issues regarding privacy and confidentiality created by electronic communication media and technologies that present risks to clients so they can clearly discuss these risks with clients who wish to utilize these technologies.
- Participants will be able to evaluate and improve their competency to utilize electronic technology and provide remote services to their clients.
- Participants will be able to discuss and apply specific, positive, ethically based, strategies to manage the disciplinary risks presented by remote electronic communication and professional service delivery based on documentation, consultation, informed consent, and demonstration of competency.