



Jennifer F. Kelly, PhD, ABPP

For APA President

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Working Together to Benefit Society and Improve People's Lives

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To the Executive Committee of Division 31: The Division of State, Provincial, and Territorial Association Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to seek endorsement by Division 31: The Division of State, Provincial, and Territorial Association Affairs. I am honored to be a candidate for President-elect of APA, and I believe my history and goals align with the mission of Division 31. If elected I would bring to the office considerable experience including leadership within SPTAs, APA and beyond, a long track record in advocacy, and a genuine commitment to inclusion.

1. Are you a member of the psychological association of your state, province, or territory? If so, please list where and when you've held memberships:

I am a member and Fellow of the Georgia Psychological Association. I have been a member since 1991.

2. What offices or positions have you held in your SPTA, and when?

President (1999-2000)

Secretary (1997-1999)

Federal Advocacy Coordinator (2000-Current)

Treasurer of the Political Action Committee (2000-Current)

Past Chair-Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee (1992-1997)

Past Chair-Membership Committee (1991-1992)

Peer Review Committee

3. Describe your activities and accomplishments at the local/SPTA level which have strengthened your SPTA.

I have been involved in state level psychological activities since I moved to Atlanta in 1991. I believe each position I have served in has contributed to strengthening the Georgia Psychological Association. For example, while serving as chair of the Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee we began developing programs that focused on increasing the engagement and membership of ethnic minorities in the association. In addition, we began a tradition of holding an annual diversity brunch, which continues. The Brunch provides an opportunity for psychologists of various cultures and ethnicities to fellowship and network, as well as recruit members to the association. As Federal Advocacy Coordinator, a position that I have served in for 20 years, I advocated for legislation that makes a difference for our members and society, such as mental health parity and the Medicare Mental Health Access Act. One of the things I want members to understand is that GPA should be their psychology home, as it is “where the rubber meets the road” in terms of addressing issues that impact on the profession.

I believe that the organization is strengthened by the relationships that are formed, the support that we provide each other, and working toward a common goal—benefitting society and improving people’s lives.

4. Describe your activities on the national/APA level which have strengthened or benefited SPTAs.

I believe that what strengthens the national organization ultimately has a positive impact on the SPTAs. Therefore, the activities that have benefitted APA also benefit the SPTAs. That includes activities during my service on the Board of Professional Affairs, Committee for the Advancement of Professional Practice (CAPP), APA Council Representative, Board of Directors, including Recording Secretary, President of Division 31, and co-chair of the Advocacy Coordinating Committee. For example, while serving on CAPP I was on the Grants Committee. The grants to state psychological associations are of benefit in promoting the legislative agenda and in some cases keeping the organizations operating.

I currently serve on the Advisory Board of the Leadership Institute for Women in Psychology; prior to this I served on the Executive Board and faculty of the Institute. Within LIWP we have worked with and mentored mid-career women psychologists, assisting them in advancing their professional life while addressing the demands of their personal lives. We have also worked hard to increase the diversity, number and effectiveness of women psychologists as leaders. Many of the leaders of the program entered the program with a goal of becoming more engaged in leadership positions within their SPTA.

While serving on the APA Board of Directors as Recording Secretary, I was the liaison to the Ethics Committee (including the Ethics Commission), and the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI) and its committees. BAPPI assures that psychology serves the public interest and advances social justice, health and well-being for all people. My liaison work with BAPPI was harmonious with commitment to diversity and my belief that it is critical if we are to solve concerns facing society.

I am, perhaps, most proud of my work with the Diversity Leadership Development Workshop, a program that was my presidential initiative while serving as president of Division 31, a program that continues to occur every two years. With the support of a CEMRRAT grant and other funding, the leadership development/training workshop has the primary goal of assisting ethnic minority diversity delegates to advance into leadership positions within their respective SPTA. Since the program started in 2009, sixty-nine psychologists of color have gone through the program and have progressed into leadership positions within their SPTA, including President.

An exciting development in APA that will be of benefit to SPTAs is the Integrated Advocacy. APA has its first Chief Advocacy Officer, and the new integrated advocacy is centered around an inclusive and collaborative process, driven by the association's strategic priorities. The model gives APA members and governance the opportunity to provide input and prioritize the association's advocacy agenda. As psychologists and members, we are now positioned to advocate on key issues that impact SPTAs, our nation and world, as well as investments in health, education, science and technology.

5. What do you perceive as being the issues of greatest concern to SPTAs, as organizations?

One of the primary issues relates to keeping the organization financially viable, meaning keeping the doors open. The amount of revenue needed to maintain an office and staff can be challenging. Most of the revenue generated to maintain the organization is from membership dues. There can be some income generated from the annual meeting or the continuing education courses, but most of it is from membership dues. Many SPTAs have opted to have management companies manage the association, but that places much burden on the volunteer officers to meet the needs that one expects from psychological associations. At the same time that there are financial challenges, there is the need to keep the organization relevant, meeting the needs of the members. There is a need to attract the early career psychologists, our future. This is especially important as we are an aging association.

It is important to remain focused on legislative issues. This is critically important because legislation that impacts on members nationally are often initiated on the local level. The small/very small SPTAs are especially vulnerable to this so it will be important to make sure they have a robust legislative agenda.

6. What do you perceive as being issues of greatest concern to members of SPTAs?

The primary issue to many members of the SPTAs is reimbursement, how to bill for services and be adequately and appropriately compensated for the services they provide. Most of the members are in independent practice and they turn to their psychological association to address the areas.

Members want to see more social justice involvement from their SPTA. In the past there has been more focus on SPTAs being guild organizations, focusing on reimbursement issues and making sure that psychologists are financially viable, for example. Now there is the need to balance that with making sure that we have social justice involvement.

Members also have concern that they may not be getting enough for what they are paying for. They want to make sure that the organization is meeting their individual needs.

7. If elected to the APA Presidency, what would you do to address these issues?

One of the most effective ways that APA can address SPTA issues is connecting with the Practice Directorate, in which there is a state advocacy office and an effective government relations team (part of the C6—APA Services Inc). The Leadership Conference is important in addressing SPTA concerns as well. There has been much evolution of this, from the State Leadership Conference, to the Practice Leadership Conference, and to the Leadership Conference. Although it is not yet clear how all of this will play out with the new structure, it will be critically important to make sure that practice does not lose its focus. During the past leadership conferences, there was much support for the SPTAs, the officers, Executive Directors, Early Career Psychologists, and Diversity Delegates. The leadership conference has done a good job in the past in infusing social justice into the congressional messaging, and hopefully the SPTAs will take that back to their own organization. We want to make sure that this is something that will continue.

It is known that 50% of the members of APA do not belong to their SPTA or to divisions. There needs to be a way in which the SPTAs can attract these other members, through a nationwide membership campaign targeting this other 50 percent members.

8. Please add any comments you'd like which are not elicited above that address the affairs of state, provincial, and territorial psychological associations.

I again want to thank you for the opportunity to seek endorsement by Division 31. The 4-pillars of my APA presidential campaign are: **Advocacy, Inclusion, Leadership, and Experience**. I believe all of these are necessary if we are to make a difference in APA, our profession and society. As a person who is board certified in clinical health psychology, I remain committed to addressing the health and well-being of ALL patients.

I believe there are multiple challenges facing psychology in the changing healthcare environment that we must address if psychologists are to be leaders in healthcare. The biggest overarching challenge is health disparities. Disparities in healthcare services, research, and education and training are primarily affecting those in low SES, marginalized racial and ethnic groups, and women and children. As an association, APA needs to prioritize adequate funding for research to better understand the biological, psychological, and social factors that impact on health and wellbeing, ensure appropriately accredited education and training in health psychology to have a competent workforce to address challenges across the lifespan of individuals, and adequate and appropriate reimbursement for the services we provide. All areas hold equal importance within this ever changing and challenging health care environment.

For our profession to thrive, we must advocate successfully for adequate funding for psychological education and science. If we successfully grow and nurture our advocacy network, we can make a real difference in the world, including adequate funding to conduct the research needed to understand and intervene in the social issues that affect our society, such as the opioid crisis, homelessness, and serious mental illness. I believe psychologists should be appropriately and adequately compensated for the services we provide. Over the years we have been negatively impacted by discouraging reimbursement rates. We must continue to advocate for parity and access to quality mental health care for ALL; despite improvement over the years, there are many individuals who still are not covered and do not have this access.

I believe we should embrace and integrate the diverse perspectives of all psychologists, from students to our senior colleagues. We must continue to partner with our colleagues to promote and honor the international perspectives within psychology, which is critical for a more global society, and integrate applied and applied practice psychologists for what they bring to our profession. Diversity is critical if we are to solve the concerns facing society today.

I have chosen two presidential initiatives:

1) Bringing integrated care to independent psychologists. I have a single owner independent practice but am fully involved in integrated care. APA has contributed significantly to the establishment of integrated care models, but I believe the role of independent practitioners has not been aggressively pursued. Integrated care is typically framed within hospital or institutional health service. I believe we can do a better job in coordinating the work that we do, and I would like to facilitate this.

2) Enhancing and ensuring services and education/training and understanding/researching best practices for the Seriously Mentally Ill. This population is among the most marginalized and underserved. I believe that we have much to offer in working with this population, and that all of psychology can make a difference. Psychology has not found a way to include these individuals in the mainstream access to health care. The fee structure for practice has significantly impeded access. A new model of care is past due, one that will involve community practitioners in breaking down the barriers for this population. In APA, I would work with the Task Force on Serious Mental Illness and Severe Emotional Disturbance (TFSMI/SED). From 1996-2012, I served on the Board of 3Keys (formerly Project Interconnections), whose mission is to provide permanent housing for homeless individuals while treating their mental illness. This has been met with great success, and I hope we can be even more successful with our initiative.

With both initiatives there is much work to be done to have desired impact, and I would welcome collaboration with APA members.

We need leadership to help meet the needs of our changing profession and world, to embrace integrated advocacy beyond the current silos, to implement APA's new strategic plan, and to advance our position as leaders in Health Care. I believe I can provide that leadership. I have the knowledge, the extensive experience, and the ability to unite diverse perspectives inside and outside of psychology.

I would be honored to be endorsed by Division 31. I am attaching my CV and campaign flyer. Please contact me for further information at JFKPHD@AOL.COM. Thank you for your kind consideration.

**Education, Science, Practice and Public Interest:
United to benefit society and improve people's lives.**

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