Honoring Nancy Slagg’s Contributions

by Andrew Benjamin, JD, PhD, ABPP

Dr. Nancy Slagg is retiring as the Division 31 Newsletter Editor. She has served in this role for the last nine years. Her patience, perseverance, and pluck have resulted in an outstanding tenure in this unsung role.

Nancy describes herself as a persistent person. Some of us (those who have dilly-dallied) really know! By encouraging and appreciating the people who produce the content of the newsletter, she has helped to strengthen “a very capable and reliable leadership group,” in her words. Alas, she is retiring from professional organization activity. Instead she will continue her practice, travel and spend more time with her family. In Nancy’s words, “back to personal basics—fun, family, and more fun.”

Her heartfelt affiliation with our Division was formed during her initial involvement with her State Association (Illinois) where she learned that Division 31 was the premiere advocate for SPTAs. After Terry Koller (IPA’s Executive Director and Division 31’s Communication Committee Chair) encouraged her to join, she formed a strong attachment to the Division. Koller reported that Nancy has been a

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Division 31 Endorses APA Presidential Candidates

Endorsement requests were reviewed at the recent Board of Directors meeting in Orlando. Board Members voted to co-endorse (in alphabetical order)

Dr. Paul Craig
Dr. Doug Haldeman.

Each of these candidates is a Fellow of our division and has made significant contributions to the advancement of state issues both within their own jurisdictions and at a national level.

Please go to the Division’s website (www.apadiv31.org) to read statements from the candidates regarding SPTA concerns. Please VOTE in the election and list these fine candidates as #1 and #2 in your preferred order.
The Critical Importance of Involvement
by Pat DeLeon, PhD
Former APA President

During this year’s exciting State Leadership Conference, Katherine Nordal called upon the membership to become increasingly involved in shaping the future of our profession. “We’re facing unchartered territory with proposed new models of care. Change is inevitable. We have to be ready to claim our place at the table. We’re going to have to address health insurance exchanges. These are exchanges that provide health plans for individuals and small businesses that will be set up at the state level.” Without question, President Obama’s Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act [P.L. 111-148] is complex and will have an extraordinary impact upon psychology. In 2014 health insurance exchanges will be available in every state with all plans including the same package of essential health benefits. In upholding its constitutionality, the U.S. Supreme Court estimated that by 2019, 24 million Americans will obtain their health insurance through one of the newly authorized exchanges.

The State of Hawai’i was the first in the nation to declare its intent to establish a state-certified exchange and is well underway in implementing its vision, having received $61.8 million from the federal government this summer. The HHS grant will allow the state to meet several new milestones including multi-cultural community outreach, language access, customer relations management, and information technology training and operations.

The Hawai’i Health Connector is an online health insurance exchange established by the state legislature as a non-profit organization in 2011. Its aim is provide an online marketplace that is Hawai’i-for-Hawai’i, effectively taking into account the state’s unique culture and Prepaid Health Care Act, an employer health mandate in effect since 1974. For psychology or any other health profession not to be involved in these policy deliberations would be, to invoke Katherine’s inspirational charge: “If we’re not at the table, it’s because we’re on the menu....” Energetic coalitions with like-minded colleagues, such as advanced practice nurses and clinical pharmacists, are absolutely critical to the future of our profession. Addressing society’s pressing needs remains the key. Aloha.

Moving Forward
by Cynthia Sturm, PhD
Federal Advocacy Coordinator

In a much-anticipated decision, the Supreme Court voted in late June to uphold the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) by a 5-4 decision. This important ruling upheld most of the provisions of the Affordable Care Act, and many aspects will move forward to full implementation in 2014. Key issues for psychology are ensuring that psychologists are included in models of integrated care in primary care settings, that psychological services are part of prevention initiatives, and as the Health Insurance Exchanges are established, that essential health benefits in qualified health plans include adequate mental health services.

Within the context of Healthcare Reform, APA’s key legislative priorities continue to be inclusion of psychologists in Medicare’s “physician” definition (S. 483 / H.R. 831), and legislation to make psychologists eligible for HIT incentive payments (S. 539/ H.R. 6043). Please encourage your representatives to cosponsor these bills through the APA Legislative Action Center at http://capwiz.com/apapractice/home/.

The 2013 Medicare Proposed Rule on the physician fee schedule is projecting a three percent reduction for psychologists as a result of practice expense adjustment and offset for “transitional care management” services. APA continues to provide comment to CMS advocating for language that recognizes psychologists’ scope of practice in providing post-discharge transitional care for adults with Major Depressive Disorder and other co-morbid conditions, and promotes psychologists as essential Medicare mental health providers.

Grassroots advocacy is critical in educating policymakers about the importance of psychological services. An excellent article in the August Professional Psychology: Research & Practice, “The importance of advocacy: Identifying perceived personal barriers to public policy advocacy within psychology (Heinowitz, Brown, Langsam, Arcidiacono, Baker, Badaan, Zlatkin & Cash, 2012) examined the role of advocacy in the profession of psychology and emphasized that advocacy is an “essential responsibility”, “because public policy drives professional functioning.”
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by Lisa Grossman, JD, PhD, ABPP

Note: See the full Council report attached to the Division 31 listserv posted August 17, 2012.

State issues

What a difference a year makes! Last year, Division 31 leadership was fighting mightily for the reinstatement of CAPP grants for the very small SPTAs. But this year at Council, we were told that “The dollar amount of the grants has not changed as of now (referring to the 2013 budget)” and CAPP’s chair, Dr. Peter Sheras, stated at the Caucus of State, Provincial and Territorial Representatives (CSPTR) that the grants would be maintained at the same percentage of the APAPO budget as 2012. Although “as of now” and “same percentage” do not necessarily guarantee the same dollar amounts, we are hopeful that the APAPO will not decrease the grant amounts once they have reviewed their budget in the fall. And with respect to our call for increased communications between the APAPO and SPTAs, Dr. Sheras also stated that CAPP has created a subcommittee to finds ways to make this happen.

At the CSPTR meeting, Dr. Barry Anton gave an update to last year’s request for SPTAs to gain access to APA member emails who live in their state, province or territory but who are not SPTA members so that SPTAs could disseminate state specific educational and advocacy information to all psychologists in their region. SPTA Council representatives would also then be able to communicate to non-SPTA members about important APA issues as well as have the non-SPTA members the ability to communicate their APA concerns to their the APA representative(s). While a surprisingly complex issue, Dr. Anton assured the CSPTR members that there will be a launch no later than November of this new access for SPTAs.

Council Highlights

The two major issues addressed at Council were:
• Funding Request: Internship Stimulus Package
  Council approved the motion by 90% of the voters (145 votes).
• Funding Request: Seating of the Four National Ethnic Minority Psychological Associations for Council
  Council approved another bylaw ballot be sent this November (2012) by 82% (127 votes) with 16% (24) in opposition. A 2/3s vote to NOT send a pro/con statement was defeated.

Division 31 Call for Nominations

Nominations are requested for Division 31 Officers to be elected during 2013. The elected candidates will assume office on January 1, 2014.

• President-Elect
  The term of office for the President-Elect is a three year cycle as President-Elect, President and Past-President.

• Treasurer
  The term of office for the Treasurer is three years.

• Member at Large
  The term of office for the Member at Large is three years.

Please send your nominations to: G.Andrew Benjamin, PhD. at gahb54@u.washington.edu by January 1, 2013.

VOTE 10 for Your State Association

When your apportionment ballot arrives from APA, Division 31 strongly urges its members to cast all ten votes for your State Association and to contact your colleagues and tell them to do the same. This gives your state and all states a strong voice in the governance of APA. This determines how many votes the states have in the APA Council of Representatives and we need to increase our voice……we need your votes!

Thanks for the Memories…

by Nancy Slagg, PhD

This will be the last edition of the Division 31 Newsletter under my watch. After nine years, I think it’s time for another to have this opportunity. It has been a great pleasure and honor to work with the outstanding members and leaders of Division 31. I have learned a lot and been glad to do what I can to further the mission of our Division.

There is a bright future ahead for the SPTAs and our Division and also many challenges. I will be cheering us on from the sidelines!
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2 Inflation Safeguard offers additional insurance coverage and the premium will be added to your bill.
Membership Activities and New Member Update Provided

by Dinelia Rosa, PsyD
Membership Chair

We are very excited to share that our membership has increased significantly in the last years. We are currently at a high of 558 members! Below please find our new members some of which are already active in the various activities of our Division. We are pleased to welcome them to Division 31! Members that joined in August will be announced in our next newsletter.

James Burger
Grady Dale Jr.
Troy Ertelt
Sabrina Esbitt
Michi Fu
Gregory Gullickson
Dimitrios Kiosses
Maury Lacher
W. Criss Lott
Carol Lowery
Jessica Luzier
Benjamin Miller
Anthony S. Ragusea
Richard Sears
Sarah Shelton
Joshua W. Shuman
Samantha Slaughter
Yonatan Sobin
Melinda S. Warner
James L. Werth, Jr.
Greg A. Wilson

WANTED.............Nominations for 2013 SPTA Awards

Nominations are invited for Division 31 Annual Awards to be presented at the 2013 State Leadership Conference. Nominations and supporting materials should be sent to Division 31 Awards Chair: G. Andrew Benjamin, Ph.D. at gahb54@u.washington.edu by January 1, 2013.

State Provincial and Territorial Psychological Association

Diversity Award

This award will recognize innovative, creative and significant contributions by a State, Provincial, or Territorial Psychological Association to advance diversity for its members, in its leadership, and for the public. Such contributions may include:

• Sponsoring C.E. workshops to enhance multi-cultural competencies and awareness.
• Planning community forums to address issues of diversity.
• Recruiting new members into the Association and increasing the diversity of the Association’s membership, to include students and early career psychologists.
• Increasing representation of diverse groups in the Association’s leadership.
• Mentoring programs for Psychologists of diverse backgrounds.
• Educating members through newsletters and other publications on topics of diversity.
• Developing innovative programs contributing to increased knowledge of issues of diversity.

This award recognizes innovation, accomplishment, and ongoing activities related to diversity in membership, governance, and leadership, and programming.

Outstanding State, Provincial, or Territorial Psychological Association (SPTA)

The award for Outstanding SPTA honors a psychological association that provides a model for other associations to emulate, by achievements and outstanding accomplishments, such as:

• Initiating innovative programming and services.
• Advancing the profession through advocacy and significant legislative accomplishments.
• Demonstrating strategies for promoting financial stability of the Association.
• A proven history of producing leaders in organized psychology.
• Promoting diversity within the Association.
• Contributing significantly to the public good.

Outstanding Psychological Association Staff Member

The award for Outstanding Psychological Association Staff Member honors a person whose outstanding achievements may include:

• Demonstrating leadership skills.
• Advancing psychology through innovative or significant accomplishments.
• Inspiring greater involvement of members.
• Serving as an outstanding role model and mentor for other staff members.
• Providing community service of significant value to the psychological association and psychology.

Division 31/Committee on Early Career Psychologists (ECP) Initiative Award

The award for ECP Initiatives is selected from nominations by any individual who is a member of that SPTA and Division 31. Criteria for the award selection is based on one or more of the following measured outcomes:

• Success in recruiting and engaging ECP members.
• Activities and initiatives that support the professional and personal development of ECPs.
• Innovative educational offerings that help prepare members for the future of psychology.
• Success in engaging ECPs in leadership roles within the organization.

Division 31 will grant $750.00 to the SPTA to use toward ECP activities. There are requirements in connection with this award, including a one-year update and an experience and outcomes articles by December 15, 2013, for use by Division 31.
Arkansas

The Board of Directors held a long range planning retreat in July to help the board prioritize projects and issues. Membership recruitment and healthcare concerns were two key areas board members determined should be a primary focus for the coming year. The Association held a reception at a member owned art gallery and invited newly licensed psychologists to attend.

Colorado

The CPA website, www.copsych.org, was updated and made more user friendly. CPA’s Annual Conference theme this year was Building Community – “Two Rocks Do Not Make a Duck” - referencing our new logo, a rock cairn or “duck”. Keynotes were given by APA President Suzanne Bennett Johnson, Ph.D., Gary Dixon of The Foundation for a Better Life and Chicken Lips Entertainment. CPA continues to present current topics of interest at its quarterly Society for the Advancement of Multiculturalism and Diversity (SAMD) events.

CPA’s legislative chair met with the Colorado District Attorney’s Council to begin discussion about collaborating with them on legislation that would allow psychologists to be “first evaluators” in “Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity” (NGRI) cases. CPA is an active partner in The Behavioral Health Partnership comprising nine stakeholder organizations whose mission is to raise awareness of mental health and substance use disorder issues and ensure quality systems of care and treatment, policy, and funding for mental health through unified action.

Illinois

The IPA is actively pushing its prescriptive authority bill. It submitted a bill near the end of the Spring legislative session and passed it out the House Committee. Grassroots efforts have been tremendously successful with numerous agencies and advocacy groups supporting the bill.

The IPA has filed a complaint with the Illinois Department of Insurance against Humana and its subsidiary LifeSynch alleging a parity violation. Our parity concern is that LifeSynch announced new provider contracts that dramatically reduced reimbursement rates for psychologists by as much as 66%. We are concerned that these slashed rates will severely impact patient access to mental health care. We have not yet heard back from the Department but Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky’s office is now weighing in on the issue.

Iowa

Iowa Psychological Association will have their fall conference October 12 in Des Moines. Legislative strategy for the Jan-May 2013 session is in progress and will include requesting continued support of the post doc training project and updating of the licensure training language.

New York

We are excited to announce that we have hired a part-time Director of Professional Affairs. We have also graduated our 2nd class from the NYSPA Leadership Institute and inducted the 3rd class at our annual convention. This project has provided a small, but steady stream of new leaders to the association currently producing division officers, council representatives and committee chairs.

Current legislative activities include: working with state policy makers in the development of the NY Health Insurance Exchange; and introducing legislation that will change the corpororate practice law and allow psychologists to partner with physicians and other health providers.

Ohio

As the term of President John Rudisill winds down, we reflect on a productive year. A complete revamping of OPA’s website has been met with many positive comments. (www.ohpsych.org). Cathy McDaniels Wilson, Planning and Development Chair, updated OPA’s Mission and Vision Statements and completed a comprehensive strategic plan with strong outcome measures. Incoming President, Jim Broyles, plans to focus his annual board retreat on aligning committee goals with the plan.

OPA’s legislative initiatives included: a demonstration project for appropriately trained psychologists to prescribe in Ohio prisons, a bill to update Ohio’s Psychology Law, a bill defining who has authority to permit athletes to return to play after a head injury and legislation adding psychologists to the list of those who can do disability determinations for Ohio’s pension systems.

Virginia

Virginia’s PEC committee sponsored two important outreach efforts so far this year. In April we participated in the National YMCA Healthy Kids Day. Approximately 50 families stopped by our booth. In July the PEC set up a booth at the Virginia PTA convention and handed out information to hundreds of parents, school administrators and PTA leaders from across our State.
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dedicated volunteer and advocate for psychology. She was the IPA’s sixth woman president, serving in that role in 1994 – 1995. Before that she devoted many years to the thankless job as IPA’s board secretary. She was a strong leader who knew how to compromise and move the decisions forward. Her sense of humor and ability to see the big picture resulted in her calming even the tensest of debates. The newsletter served as the entrée point to the leadership of Division 31. After an initial stint as Assistant Editor, she took over as Editor from Mike Roberts when he assumed APA duties.

During her nine years in the job, she has guided the transitions and worked seamlessly with three different newsletter publishers. She also obtained advertising revenue for the first time, which has eased the budget crunch for the Division. Her determinations about newsworthy content reflect the merits and achievements of Division 31. Nancy’s work has led the Division to become more strikingly identified as APA’s “Voice of Leadership and Advocacy.” And not surprisingly, she would like to see more content about leadership and advocacy published. As a result, she has been strongly supportive of the regular postings from Division 31’s Task Forces’ (http://www.apadivisions.org/division-31/leadership/task-forces/index.aspx) through the website and the Division’s different social media platforms.

When she learned that this column would focus on her, she asked that I convey to you how much pleasure she has derived from her role as Editor for nine years. Division 31 has been blessed to have such a committed and talented Psychologist assume and engage in the Newsletter’s Editorial duties with Nancy’s efficacy. Thank you, thank you, thank you, Dr. Nancy Slagg!
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