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Focus on 31

Summer 2022 • Volume 54 • Issue 2



There Is Power In the SPTAs



**By Elena
Eisman, EdD
Division 31
President**

I have had a lot of trouble writing this column due to my deep concern and sadness over all that has been going on in this country. The quadruple whammy of health and other social disparities, economic disasters, threats to democracy here and abroad, and the final blow - the decimation of a women's' right to control over her body has sent me spinning. It was only the joy of my daughter's

wedding that allowed me to get a break from the urgent press to get involved...but that is now back. The overturning of *Roe v Wade*, a fight I was very involved with decades earlier, makes it clear that whatever you believe in or have worked for, you need to stay vigilant since even hard-fought battles are never permanently guaranteed.

The focus on state level regulation for social issues has me recognizing the power of local activity - SPTA activity. To bring this down to the Division 31 level, it points out the importance of understanding where decisions are made and where power lies. For psychology

Power in the SPTAs

Continued on page 9

Congratulations to Our New Division 31 Leaders

- President Elect: Dr. Mayra Ortiz
- Treasurer: Dr. Nan Klein
- Member at Large: Dr. Michele McKinnie
- APA Council Representative: Dr. Chuck Hollister

“One Night by the Light of the Moon, the Captain Told Us to Ford a River”



**By Pat
De Leon,
PhD,
former APA
President**

Reflecting upon the emotional and physical

trauma impacting health care providers of all disciplines as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and of the projections of early retirement, the Surgeon General's report on clinician burnout, and prolonged waiting times for accessing needed care, I would hope that collectively we would appreciate that even these unprecedented challenges come unique opportunities. For far too long, our nation's health care system has provided insufficient priority to the importance of preventive and wellness-oriented care; not to mention the clinical and economic benefits of integrated care. With advanced clinical training and increasing scientific knowledge, each of the disciplines should be encouraged to practice to the fullest extent of their education, training and clinical skills, as visionary reports from the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) have recommended. In 2020, economist Jeffrey Bauer estimated that by fully empowering non-physician providers our nation's health care costs could be reduced by 32%, which would result in an annual savings of **\$155 billion**, without any loss of quality care.

Colleagues who decided to enter the health care field represent the nation's educated elite and with that status comes, as we are aware, significant income, comfortable housing, professional mobility and food stability. Also comes the societal responsibility to appropriately modify our current health care system so that it serves **all** Americans in a timely fashion. In doing so, we should actively engage the next generation of leaders to collaboratively participate with us in this all important political/public policy process. Mentorship is absolutely critical for long-term success.

One of the unique aspects of serving on Capitol Hill is the opportunity to listen to the pressing issues and experiences through the lens of a wide range of concerned citizens and especially from those most personally impacted. It has been my experience that one of the most effective organizations of behalf of the public good has consistently been AARP, with its nearly 38 million members. AARP was founded in 1958 by a retired school teacher, Ethel Percy Andrus, with the goal of helping older Americans remain physically and intellectually active by serving others. One of its major priorities is serving as a legislative advocate for the elderly at the federal and state levels, especially working to influence the passage of legislation that affects older citizens. At the national level, they have been extraordinarily effective on behalf of professional nursing, running the *Future of Nursing: Campaign*

for Action in partnership with the AARP Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This campaign was created and continues its efforts to implement the recommendations of the *Future of Nursing* reports out of the IOM and the NAM. In Hawaii, Ray Folen reports that AARP had been most helpful with HPA's efforts to enact comprehensive telehealth legislation, following up on the positive experiences of many of his members serving the underserved and disabled during the pandemic.

The extraordinarily sad mass shootings – Uvalde, Buffalo, Sandy Hook – have brought the need for increased mental health/behavioral health funding graphically to the public's attention. Ready access and adequate reimbursement for telehealth, supervised clinical trainees and interns and licensure mobility must be a priority. Alex Siegel, Director of Professional Affairs, ASPPB, reports that the Psychological Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT) continues to add new jurisdictions. Currently, there are 28 jurisdictions which have adopted and are currently part of the PSYPACT Commission and there are five other states which have enacted PSYPACT (but their laws are not yet effective), thus bringing the number up to 33 of the 55 ASPPB jurisdictions which have now passed legislation adopting the psychology compact. “Where are the other states?” one might reasonably ask. “And the big fool says to push on!” (*Waist deep in the Big Muddy*. Pete Seeger).

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ECP and Student Committee Co-chair Update



**Rebecca
Richey, PhD**

The Committee on Early Career Psychologists is gearing up for the first in-person APA Convention since 2019! COVID changed the way we live, learn and practice, and CECP is taking advantage of our in-person presence at APA

to connect with ECPs about their changing needs. We are holding two listening sessions, one virtual session during pre-convention week (held July 26th from 4-5pm) and an in-person session from 5-6pm on August 4th in the Emerging Leadership space. All students and early career professionals are welcome to join us in the Emerging Leadership space at the APA Conference, where information, resources, and friendly APAGS/CECP representatives will be stationed throughout the convention. In addition to these sessions and

the Emerging Leadership space, early career psychologists are invited to join us at several Q&A sessions during pre-convention week. These sessions will feature discussions with leaders within APA, including a representative from the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Office, the Chief Science Officer, the current APA President, and APA's Chief Executive Officer. We are hoping that these opportunities, coupled with the ability to present in-person will offer an invigorating and inspiring experience for early career psychologists.

Visit the [Division 31 web site](#)

to see these blogs for a variety of communities:

[Diversity Task Force](#)

[Early Career Psychologists](#)

[Ethics Education](#)

[Health Care Reform](#)

[Student Task Force](#)

2022 APA Convention Schedule Released



Eric Russ, PhD
Conference
Program Chair



State, Provincial & Territorial Affairs
DIVISION 31

All are welcome and encouraged to join us at the following social events

- **Karl F. Heiser**
APA Presidential Award Ceremony
Friday 1:00 PM-2:50 PM
The Heiser Award honors those psychologists who have given voluntarily of their time to define the discipline of psychology through advocacy.
- **Awards Ceremony**
Friday 5:00 PM-6:50 PM
Come join your Division 31 community as we celebrate all we have accomplished over the past year and honor winners of SPTA Awards!

Below you will find the listing of Division 31 programming that will be found in the APA program.

THURSDAY

- Session ID: 800
9:00-9:50am
Project for Promoting the Growth of SPTAs
Lawrence Perlman, PhD, Independent Practice, Ann Arbor, MI
- Session ID: 809
1:00 PM - 2:50 PM
SPTAs: Most Important Issues for 2022 for APA and Division 31
Elena J Eisman, EdD; Connie Galietti, JD; Peter Oppenheimer, PhD; Michele C McKinnie, PsyD
- Session ID: 810
3:00 PM - 4:50 PM
Symposium: Professional Support for Healthcare Executives During COVID-19: A Consultation Model
David L Prescott, PhD; Diana L Prescott, PhD; Darcy Shargo, MA

FRIDAY

- Session ID: 801
3:00 PM - 4:50 PM
Do the Right Thing vs. Doing Things Right for applied and SPTA psychology: an Ethics, Practice Regulation, and advocacy discussion
Elena J Eisman, EdD; Mark I Sirkin, PhD; Nanci Klein, PhD; Sandra L Shullman, PhD

SATURDAY

- Session ID: 811
9:00 AM - 9:50 AM
***Building Resilience Post Disaster: Mitigation Actions for Psychologists**
David J Romano, PhD; Ester Cole, PhD
*Approved for Continuing Education credit

Ban the Box in Psychology



**Jason A.
Cantone, JD,
PhD**



**Terrill O.
Taylor, MA**

The Ban the Box movement seeks the removal of felony status questions from employment applications and, more recently, in higher education. The time is now to address the use of these questions within professional psychology. In February 2022, 94% of APA Council of Representatives members voted to remove the felony status question from all APA membership applications. The APA legislation, which received the support of 77 co-signers, expanded a pilot program that earlier removed the felony status question from all undergraduate applications. In May 2022, Division 31 leadership voted unanimously to encourage all state, provincial, and territorial psychological associations (SPTAs) to also make the change. We have started contacting each SPTA to determine if they have a felony status question on their application and, if so, whether they are interested in removing it. But why is this change important?

Prior incarceration is a source of stigma and bias ([Feingold, 2021; U.S. Department of Education, 2016](#)), despite there being no research studies conducted to suggest that formerly justice-involved psychologists (which includes psychologists who have been charged or convicted of a prior felony) are more likely to commit ethical or legal violations than their counterparts ([Wilcox & Taylor, 2022](#)). Felony status questions have a disparate and long-lasting impact and deter well-qualified applicants from higher education and professional opportunities that can contribute to their success.

Researchers have also argued that “requiring a disclosure of one’s criminal history may be more security theater than an actual security measure. As such, required criminal history disclosure may not serve its intended purpose and yet serves a substantial barrier to justice-involved individuals’ opportunities to obtain higher education, and subsequently, opportunities in professional psychology” ([Wilcox & Taylor, 2022](#)). These questions can have a chilling effect and result in re-traumatization and an immediate stop to the application process. Also, the questions most affect those who honestly self-report prior convictions. Individuals who have committed crimes that have gone unreported or did not lead to conviction, or those who simply do not check the box, do not face such barriers to membership. Furthermore, most of these screening tools focus only on felony convictions, ignoring civil actions such as

sexual harassment.

The U.S. Department of Education (2016) has stated that a criminal background disclosure requirement disproportionately affects people of color due to racial disparities in school punishment as well as over-policing of communities of color. Removing the felony status question will make SPTAs’ application procedures more consistent with recent APA guidance, including the APA EDI Framework ([APA, 2021a](#)), 2021 “Apology to People of Color for APA’s Role in Promoting, Perpetuating, and Failing to Challenge Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Human Hierarchy in U.S.” ([APA, 2021b](#)), 2021 Resolution on Harnessing Psychology to Combat Racism: Adopting a Uniform Definition and Understanding” ([APA, 2021c](#)), and 2021 Resolution on the “Role of Psychology and APA in Dismantling Systemic Racism Against People of Color in the U.S.” ([APA, 2021d](#)), and result in a positive impact on diversity within professional psychology.

In advocating for the APA change, we heard a small number of psychologists express concern with removing the question. One concern regarded how it would affect future decisions of SPTAs, APA, or licensing boards. Removing a felony status question does not affect licensure decisions and does not limit how APA or licensing boards can respond to future acts. It does, however, remove an unnecessary hurdle for individuals

Ban the Box

Continued on page 8

Division 31 APA Council Representative's Report



**Peter
Oppen-
heimer,
PhD
COR Rep.**

The August Council meeting will be held August 3 and 4 at the Hyatt Regency in Minneapolis. APA has not shared any agenda items to date. They have not scheduled any townhalls or other pre-meeting meetings today. The Caucuses will be held all day on Friday July 29.

The preliminary August Agenda has just been issued. Agenda items include

- APA's Racial Equity plan
- The Equitable treatment of graduate students
- A proposal to include Graduate students on certain boards and committees.
- And the Healthcare Guidelines Policy

It is unclear what the Council Effectiveness Implementation Oversight Task Force will bring forward to this meeting and what will be addressed next year. The council leadership Team Evaluation Task Force will ask for an extension to continue their work into next year.

I have some good news. The Exploratory Committee for Applied Psychology is not bringing forward their proposal for a permanent Board of Applied Psychologists.

The next part of my message

became obsolete before I could submit it. The Exploratory Committee for Applied Psychology did not submit a New Business Item (legislation) for the upcoming Council meeting. So, P&P is not pushing this scheme forward this year, but they could try again in the future. I am going to tell you about the draft we have seen, so you are aware and will be attuned in the future if ECAP brings it forward.

The Exploratory Committee for Applied Psychology (ECAP) draft proposed the creation of a Board of Applied Psychology. This Board would be created as a fifth pillar board (with practice, science, public interest and education). We have significant concerns about the proposal:

- The proposal included in "Applied Psychology" everyone who works in non-healthcare settings. Practice would be divided by work setting. That would be divisive to efforts to promote and support practice in all its diversity and complex forms.
- It included "school psychology" as an applied field, but school psychology is a health service according to APA accreditation standards, and it is a regulated practice, where much of applied psychology is not.
- All practicing psychologists use and engage in applied psychology in the course of their work.
- It is contrary to the central tenant of the "One APA" transformation of 2018. It

would be politically divisive and counterproductive.

We appreciate the desire of APA members who identify as "applied psychologists" to have a committee that focuses on their interests and promotes their work, but to do this as a fifth pillar board would be counterproductive. We would have supported the creation of a permanent Committee for Applied Psychology that reported to one or more of our existing boards.

It is clear to me that the best interests of all practicing members are better served by a unified Practice Directorate that includes the diversity of our practice and serves the broad diversity of our membership

This will be my last meeting as our Division's Council Representative. It has been an honor to serve you all. Chuck Hollister will serve the next term. Chuck's extensive experience as both the Executive Director and the Director of Professional Affairs of the Missouri Psychological Association prepare him well for this roll. The Division 31 representative has a special role as the liaison for our division to all 60 SPTA representatives, and often as the organizer of this group. Thanks to all the hard work of our Division leadership and the many SPTA and Division Representatives with whom I have had the privilege to work with in support of our SPTAs and our members in our jurisdictions.

Best wishes to you all. I look forward to seeing you at the Convention in August.

Ban the Box

Continued from page 6

with prior convictions who have already served their court-imposed sanction and seek to make a difference, including within professional psychological associations. Another concern was that formerly justice-involved psychologists are more likely to commit ethical or legal violations than their counterparts. However, research does not support that presumption, which is based on a deficit view that diminishes people's humanity, life chances, and opportunities for change. In weighing the benefits and concerns with removing the felony status question, almost all of APA Council voted

to remove the question. We encourage each SPTA to do the same. If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at jasoncantone@gmail.com or terrill.taylor@gmail.com.

For further reading, please see:

Wilcox, M. M., & Taylor, T. O. (2022). Ban the box: Addressing effects of systemic racism on justice-involved individuals in pathways to professional psychology. *Training and Education in Professional Psychology*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/tep0000407>

This work is completed in Dr.

Cantone's capacity as an adjunct professor at George Mason University and not affiliated with his employment at the Federal Judicial Center. The views expressed herein are those of the authors and are not the views of the Federal Judicial Center or its Board. Terrill Taylor is a doctoral candidate in the Counseling Psychology program at the University of North Dakota. He is a formerly justice-involved individual that conducts research on issues of social justice, particularly as it pertains to race, discrimination and oppression, intersectionality, and restorative justice.

We seek to mentor early career psychologists.



Power in the SPTAs

Continued from page 1

this means not just at the national or congressional level, but also at the state level. Moreover, as I get more involved with local politics, I find that many decisions which impact psychological health begin there as well. I once again point out the importance of support for SPTAs. I have spent my whole professional life involved with, indebted to and trumpeting the importance of the SPTAs to the work of APA and psychology. It is only through supporting strong SPTAs alongside a strong APA that we can do the work necessary to develop and maintain the highest cutting-edge functions for psychologists and insure access to them.

I am asking for your help! Our division, like others, is impacted by the membership marketing forces that other divisions are facing: aging membership and the reluctance of younger generations to appreciate the value of association membership. PLEASE help me change that perception! How?

Here are five ways you can help:

1. Look at your Board and count the number who are members of Division 31. Encourage all of them all to join Division 31. Your talking points can include SPTA related benefits - our Division is the only division whose mission is to promote SPTAs and funding for SPTAs to APA, and personal benefits - it promotes members to leadership in APA as well as allowing for APA Fellow status based on SPTA leadership activities.

2. Get involved in the Division. If you don't know how, please contact me and I will help you personally. There are many exciting projects we are working on.
3. The Division is engaged in a strategic planning effort focused on your needs. We are sending out a survey to see what they are. Please fill it out- it is short and important. We are also surveying APA staff to get their feedback on what is important for our Division to be doing into the future.
4. I am a life member of APA, therefore dues exempt. Remember that I said our membership is aging? That means that APA life members remain our members (we are happy for this) but they pay no dues to the Division. We are now able to take contributions to the Division if you are a life member like me, I am going to be the first to make a contribution to Division 31 of \$50 which would be my dues

- as a non-life member. Please join me in contributing to the Division. It has been an important home for me and I want it to thrive which takes money and leadership (please reread point number 2 above!)
5. Please share the statements, resources and projects your SPTA is proud of. We will share those and archive them so other SPTAs can benefit from your work and leadership.

These are 5 ways you can help us with our mission. I hope to see many of you at the APA convention this year. If I don't know you (or don't recognize you because you are wearing a mask), please introduce yourself to me and do come to the Division 31 Social hour. At the social hour, besides socializing, we will be giving awards for the Outstanding Psychologist, Early Career and Excellence in Rural Psychology. The social hour will be in the Minneapolis Grand Ballroom G Third Floor on Friday August 5, from 5:00-6:00 PM.

Thank you for your continued support of Division 31.

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