



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

*The Division of State,
Provincial & Territorial
Psychological Association Affairs*

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Focus on 31

Fall 2022 • Volume 54 • Issue 3



Consider Moving Up to National Service



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

We need
more SPTA
leaders to move

into APA leadership! This statement reflects the experience and mission that we on the Board have come to this year. Why this is important is the focus of my column. There has always been a pipeline from SPTA leadership to APA leadership. With the pandemic and the

scaling back of the Practice Leadership Conference, this pipeline has been interrupted. While we have many SPTA leaders in APA leadership such as past President, Dr. Jennifer Kelley and ACC past-chair and current APA Recording Secretary, Dr. Kate Brown, it seems that many APA boards and committees are lacking members who understand the issues at the SPTA level and how keeping them front and center when national policy is developed by APA is important.

Consider Moving Up!

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Call for Division 31 Award Nominations!

Please visit website for award descriptions at

<http://www.apadivisions.org/division-31/awards/index.aspx>

- Committee on Early Career Psychologists (CEPC) Initiative Award
- State, Provincial and Territorial Psychological Association Diversity Award
- Outstanding Achievement by a Psychological Association Staff Member
- Outstanding State, Provincial, or Territorial Psychological Association Award
- Outstanding Psychologist Award

Nominations and supporting materials should be sent to the Division 31 Awards Chair Elena Eisman by January 31, 2023, at

elena@eisman@gmail.com

2023 President-elect Candidate Campaign Statements



**By Beth
Rom-Rymer,
PhD**

**Endorsement
#1**

SPTA's are critical in the work of our APA. As draconian legislation tries to shut down the voices of minoritized and marginalized populations in our states, our SPTA's are on the frontlines, there to fight to legislatively protect and expand the therapist-client privilege and other legislation that is key to the practice of the

broad spectrum of psychologists' work. As Supreme Court Justices Alito and Thomas explicitly threaten to overturn a litany of Supreme Court decisions that have established transgender rights, same sex marriage, interracial marriage, the right to an abortion, and other privacy rights, it is our SPTA's, in partnership with other statewide organizations, that will be key in organizing the various interests in our states to deliver well-articulated criticism, based on our psychological science, of the psychologically and physically harmful sequelae of these decisions.

As a two-term president of the Illinois Psychological Association

and a 2014 winner of the Division 31 National Outstanding Psychologist Award, I am so very much grateful to have received the #1 endorsement by Division 31 for my candidacy for President-elect 2023.

And here is my Campaign Statement:

We are living in a world shaken by trauma: the ongoing crimes against humanity in Ukraine; the struggle to sustain international democratic states amidst authoritarianism; the challenging campaign to inoculate all people, worldwide, against Covid-19, while Covid illnesses and post-acute Covid symptoms continue to devas-

Rom-Rymer Statement

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**Responses
from Diana
Prescott, PhD**

**Endorsement
#2**

• **What offices or positions have you held in your SPTA, and when?**

I served as a Member at Large on the Maine Psychological Association (MePA) Policy Council from 1997 to 2008. I also have served as Rural Health Coordinator for MePA. When the APA Committee on Women in Psychology (CWP) requested a Network representative in the states, I volunteered to serve in this role. I also volunteered to serve as Federal Advo-

cacy Coordinator when we did not have one and have served in that role from 2003 to present. I was elected APA Council representative for MePA 11/2007, reelected, and served in this role to 2014. Since 2014, I have been serving in APA leadership roles and remain connected to MePA through the list-serv, federal advocacy, continuing education, and the annual meeting.

• **Describe your activities and accomplishments at the local/SPTA or national level which have strengthened SPTAs.**

At the state level, I helped organize regional gatherings for the women in psychology, in my role on the CWP Network for Maine. The women related at a MePA meeting they felt isolated. The regional groups have met in Port-

land, Waterville, and Bangor. The Bangor Area Women in Psychology continues to meet monthly during the academic calendar year. During 2008-2014, I helped initiate and co-chaired the Maine Integrated Primary Care Committee. In the state of Maine, I have chaired the Maine Migrant (now Maine Mobile) Health Program board and served as a Board member on the Maine Primary Care Association (MePCA) Board. I am a current member of the Maine Rural Health Action Group (RHAN). I have participated in a monthly CE meeting of the Bangor Area Psychological Society (BAPS). On November 10, 2017, I was unexpectedly awarded Fellow status at the MePA Fall Conference.

Prescott Statement

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“Battling Dragons or Taking on Another Giant, Escaping Baby Sisters, Better Keep Your Phone on Silent.”



By Pat DeLeon, PhD, former APA President

The Importance of Inter-professional Collaboration:

Long time Capitol Hill colleague Peter Reinecke recently shared with us the *Health Affairs* report indicating that the number of psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners (PMHNPs) serving Medicare beneficiaries increased by 162% from 2011 to 2019, compared with a decrease of 06% for psychiatrists during the same period. Further, the proportion of all mental health prescriber visits provided by PMHNPs increased from 12.5% to 29.8%, and exceeded 50% in rural, full-scope-of-practice regions. The authors found that advanced practice nurses (APNs) “accounted for the largest contribution to treatment capacity growth during the pandemic.” Wyoming’s Mike Enright, California’s Linda Richardson, former APA President Carol Goodheart, and the National League for Nursing’s President and CEO Beverly Malone each possesses both a psychology and nursing degree.

The Institute of Medicine (now the National Academy of Medicine) has consistently urged that historical scope-of-practice barriers be removed in order to allow all nurse practitioners to function clinically at the fullest extent

of their education and training. Economist Jeffrey Bauer estimates that by fully empowering non-physician providers, this could result in our nation’s health care costs being reduced by 32%; for an annual savings of \$155 billion, without any objective evidence of adverse clinical outcomes.

At the Uniformed Service University (USU), the Psychology and PMHNP faculty have been working to provide their graduate students with increasingly joint academic experiences, early in their professional careers. Most recently, Abby Diehl, Patrice Shanahan, and Brent Donmoyer hosted a discussion on providing behavioral health evaluations pursuant to Command directives and on briefing/consulting with Command Officers. Earlier in the year, Tracy Sbrocco and Jouhayna Bajjani-Gebara provided an interdisciplinary clinical psychopharmacology course. Perhaps to state the obvious, for both professions their potential clients remain the same individuals and/or families, regardless by which profession their therapist might be trained. Thus, we would rhetorically ask: What insights can the different training models contribute? How would one evaluate the specifics? On the legislative front, we would ask: Has your State Psychological Association sought out and effectively utilized the unique expertise of your own local dual degree colleagues? The potential opportunities for success are endless, *if* one possesses vision and dedication. Former APA President Tony Puente would suggest seek-

ing Medicaid reimbursement for supervising graduate and/or post-doctoral trainees.

Effective APA Advocacy at the State and National Level:

Katherine McGuire, APA Chief Advocacy Officer: “There are three candidates running for federal office in open seats with impressive backgrounds of support for mental health. Congressman Markwayen Mullin (R-OK) is running for the Senate in Oklahoma. A member of the Cherokee nation, he is a longtime supporter of independent practitioners and behavioral health and was named a Psychology PAC Champion in 2018. He is joined by Congressman Tim Ryan (D-OH) who is running for an open seat in Ohio. Congressman Ryan has devoted his years in office to combating the opioids epidemic and suicide, including leading the Military Mental Health Caucus. Finally, a newcomer is Colorado State Senator Brittany Pettersen. She is considered a leading expert in Colorado on the opioid epidemic and fixing the behavioral health system. Her passion for mental and behavioral health stems from her own mother’s suffering from three decades of opioids and heroin addiction. We need strong champions for psychology on both sides of the aisle and it takes years to cultivate meaningful relationships with Members of Congress. This is why Psychology PAC is supporting Pettersen in her open seat race.

Battling Dragons
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News from the Committee on Early Career Psychologists



By Rebecca Richey, PhD
Co-chair,
CECP and
Student
Committee

The Committee on Early Career Psychologists (CECP) has been hard at work, putting forth efforts to reconnect and build engagement among early career psychologists in this era of COVID. CECP welcomed and engaged with many early career psychologists at the American Psychological Association Convention 2022, held in Minneapolis, MN, as well as at the Pre-Convention virtual programming offered the week prior to convention. In Minneapolis, the CECP joined forces with the APA Graduate Student Association (APAGS) to welcome students

and early career professionals to the “Emerging Leaders Network (ELN),” a space dedicated to all things early career, including food, fellowship, networking, and programming. CECP also held an extremely well-attended social hour, sponsored by the American Professional Agency. This social hour provided an opportunity to connect with ECPs on a broader scale. Dr. Arthur Evans, CEO of APA, attended and provided a brief, encouraging speech to the group. CECP also held a coffee break sponsored by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards as well as several diverse and riveting symposia and educational sessions. The National Register of Health Service Psychologists also graciously sponsored several convention grant award winners, and those recipients were recognized as part of an awards presentation in the ELN space. Of note, the incoming CEO of the National Register,

Dr. Daniel M. Elchert, is also an ECP. Finally, we took the opportunity to gather feedback from early career psychologists at convention by way of a QR code survey. We received several excellent suggestions and are reviewing our current ECP resources, including the CECP website and other offerings, and we will be updating them accordingly based on feedback and high priority needs. In addition to efforts at APA convention and pre-convention, CECP is working with other units such as APA Membership and APA Communications on an ongoing basis to identify ways to promote the work of ECPs, identify leadership opportunities for ECPs, and ways to connect with ECPs early on and throughout their membership and/or engagement with APA activities. One such way we are promoting ECPs is via our CECP Achievement Award. Be on the lookout-- winners of this award will be announced this fall.

Battling Dragons

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“The Georgia Psychological Association Political Action Committee hosted a program recently in Georgia for psychologists to get trained in advocacy and learn more about how to infuse psychology into policy making. Organized by Gayle Spears, Executive Director of GPA, the program covered recent state-level advocacy efforts including the passage of the Mental Health Parity Act in the Georgia legislature during this year’s legislative session. Speakers included State Representative

Mary Margaret Oliver, who was an instrumental figure in the passage of this key legislation. The programming ended with former APA President Jennifer Kelly, longtime Georgia Federal Advocacy Coordinator, who co-presented with Alix Ginsberg, Senior Director of Congressional Relations, on the impact of her Presidential Initiative on Health Equity and what we can expect in the Fall related to mental health legislation. The all-day program on September 9th was called ‘Be at the Table -- Not on the Menu: How to Advocate for Your Practice and Profession’.”

Finally, it was very impressive to see Diana Prescott, candidate for APA President, hosting a Town Hall event to discuss APA/State Relationships, Advocacy, and Rural Health later on this month. When then-APA President Jack Wiggins created the APA Office of Rural Health, he was acutely aware of the importance of Rural America to psychology’s future. “First you gotta believe it. Try to do it like the ninja kidz, ninja kidz” (Ninja Kidz – Being Awesome!).

Aloha.

Fall 2022 Diversity Updates



By Jennifer Kelly, PhD, ABPP, Past President APA

Arizona

Arizona Psychological Association's Diversity Committee has taken the charge this past year and a half to bring courageous conversations to our membership, through the following:

- Statements regarding policy changes at the state and national levels.
- CEU offerings via our very first 'Diversity Day' (<https://azpa.org/event-4829170>).
- Collaboration with other state organizations to build a community around diversity topics.
- Series of 'Fear Factor' open-dialogue sessions aimed at making difficult topics more accessible for all.

Georgia

On Sunday, May 23, 2022, the long GPA tradition of having a diversity brunch resumed, after being interrupted for several years by COVID. As has always been the case, Dr. Jennifer Kelly opened her lovely home and warmly welcomed attendees with her wonderful gumbo – a tradition that is deeply appreciated and enjoyed by all. This year's brunch was held outside for the added safety of attendees and, while the weather was hot, all en-

joyed the time together. Dr. Maysa Akbar, APA Chief Advocacy Officer, was the special guest. She and Dr. Kelly provided a heartfelt account of the important events within APA in recent months that culminated in the adoption (by APA Council of Representatives) of the "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." It was a wonderful opportunity for GPA to add its voice of appreciation to Dr. Kelly and Dr. Akbar for their leadership in this monumental achievement.

Iowa

The Diversity and Social Justice (DSJ) Committee of the Iowa Psychological Association (IPA) promotes the integration of awareness and advocacy for diversity and social justice through all aspects of IPA. We view ourselves as agents of social change, and we aim to increase cultural competency on multiple ecological levels within the field of psychology. This year we held a training for the Executive Council and membership on Counseling the LGBTQIA+ population. We also invited Dr. Vanessa Hintz to present on APA's EDI Framework. The Diversity and Social Justice Committee held its second biannual Multicultural Workshop, which consisted of two workshops by Dr. Erin Andrews: "What Psychologists Should Know about Disability as Diversity" and "Ethical Considerations for Psychologists working with People with Disabilities". Later this year, we will offer a follow-up salon to the workshops

entitled, "Collaboratively Serving Iowans with Disabilities: The Role of Psychologists". We created a Diversity Award for graduate students who have consistently shown advocacy in the areas of diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice. We have an ongoing DEI Book and Film Club. More recently we have created an "ASK the DSJ!" initiative where members can ask the DSJ committee DEI-related questions. Members of the DSJ committee then research the issue and respond with resources. Lastly, we continue to post Diversity Spotlights to the list-serv that highlight various cultural holidays and traditions.

Illinois

The Illinois Psychological Association (IPA) officially established its Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) committee in June of 2022, with the full support of the IPA Council of Representatives. IPA President Dr. Derek Phillips appointed Dr. Abby Brown, IPA's Immediate Past President as Chair of the EDI committee alongside members Drs. Derek Phillips, Colin Ennis, Holly Houston, Erin Alexander, Hayley Van Serke, Susan O'Grady, Kim Baker, and Sharon Khurana (PLC Diversity Delegate). Our primary focus has been learning about what other states have been doing to promote EDI within their SPTAs. Specifically, we have been learning about efforts to embed diversity continuing education into our state licensing law. Our committee has been working

Fall Diversity Updates

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APA Awards Presented, Information Shared in August



In addition to the awards listed on page 7, the meeting in August saw presentations from Dr. Elena Eisman, Dr. Peter Oppenheimer and other panelists, as well as additional awards shown below for rural health activities.



APA Division 31 September Awards Ceremony Highlights



President Elena Eisman presented the awards shown here and to new APA Fellows Chuck Hollister, PhD and Jessica Luzier, PhD during a Zoom call.



The Michigan Psychological Association won the Early Career Award, accepted by MPA President Brittany N. Barber Garcia, PhD.

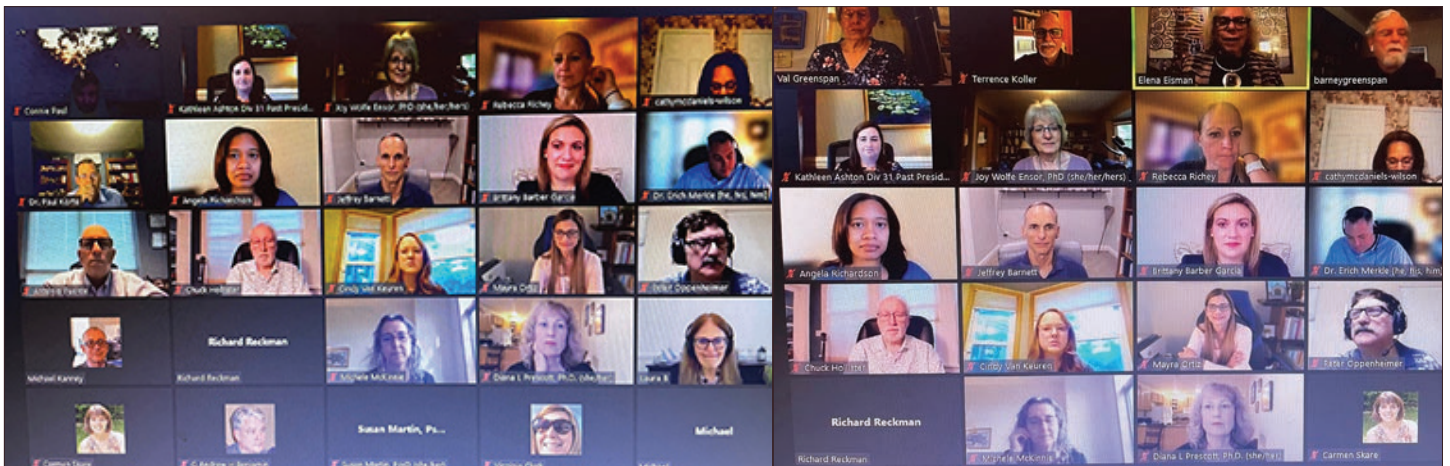


Michael Ranney was recognized for his years of service as Executive Director of the Ohio Psychological Association.



Barney Greenspan, PhD, from Idaho Psychological Association, was named Outstanding Psychologist.

Also honored were Outstanding Psychologist winner Victoria Sylos-Labini, PsyD, DC Psychological Association, and Outstanding Staff Member winner Terry Koller, PhD, Illinois Psychological Association.



2022 Karl F. Heiser APA Presidential Award Recipients

Nominated by the
Wisconsin Psychological Association

Bruce R. Erdmann, PhD

**

Nominated by the
Missouri Psychological Association:

Eric Russ, PhD

**

Nominated by the
Washington State Psychological Association:

Samantha Slaughter, PsyD

Consider Moving Up!

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We in Division 31 are committed to helping facilitate state leaders' entrance into APA leadership. Here are some reasons why this is an important goal. Many comments from APA members and leaders indicate that they don't understand SPTAs, the structure that exists between APA and SPTAs and the need for local input into APA policy setting. Many see SPTAs as solely focused on private practice issues. They don't appreciate that SPTAs are called upon to help with many types of advocacy at the state and local level that promote social justice, education and scientific interests. Instead of helping SPTAs recruit more psychologists from across the many fields of psychology, they condemn SPTAs for

being narrowly focused. They don't realize that SPTAs are separately incorporated and affiliates to APA and not chapters of APA. Most importantly, they don't realize that without the local voice of SPTAs, APA would be a beltway organization, only reflecting national views toward policy setting, and not appreciating how certain national psychology policies might impact political realities at the state level.

One example of why the local voice is important is in the ethics revision process now going on at APA. While I really applaud the directions this revision is going for the most part, there are realities that need to be taken into consideration. The more prescriptive the regulations become, they need to appreciate that healthcare in the states leave many decisions in

the hands of corporate entities or school systems, etc. which mean that individual psychologists can have limited control over decisions such as record-keeping, or access to confidential materials. Also, "who the client is" can be a complex issue when you look at prohibitions against harming people such as when you are doing employment evaluation functions. Finally, the most troubling issues are occurring around political climates which conflict with psychology's stated social justice and EDI values. These need to be appreciated since our ethics codes are written into state statute or regulation by virtue of being referenced in our licensing laws. Other professions have faced backlashes

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resulting from trying to use social justice, inclusive, or educational language in their revisions of their ethic codes. Currently, psychology has one state which hasn't even accepted our current code, referencing instead the 1998 code. I am in no way saying that these revision directions are bad but that APA needs to be aware of timing and language of these policy changes to protect against having a patchwork of different ethics codes across the country like we have with our licensing laws. A similar need for local input occurs with any proposed changes to licensing law policy. I am not implying not to do it, but rather to appreciate the complexity of implementation of new policies in light of this implementation occurring at the state level.

One important way to put this knowledge into APA policy-setting is to have APA leadership include psychologists who were leaders at the SPTA level and who can share this knowledge and keep local issues integrated in national policy directions proposed by their boards and committees.

I will now identify some APA Boards and Committees and briefly why they are important to illustrate how SPTA leaders can add to the agenda and knowledge base of these groups. How they can impact APA policy setting which makes sense at the local level.

Board of Professional Affairs- This group ably chaired by Dr. Robin McLeod (an SPTA leader) considers many policies related to psychological practice such as licensing policy, and it is the oversight group for the Prac-

tice Leadership Conference. BPA expanded its role to subsume the functions previously held by CAPP before it was sunset.

Ethics Committee and Ethics Revision Task Force As stated above this is an important direction for APA and one which does have an able past SPTA leader, Dr. Linda Campbell at its helm, but Div. 31 is helping by generating a distribution list of SPTA Ethics Committee Chairs to make sure that they stay aware of the calls for feedback and review as drafts are produced.

Continuing Education Committee Many CE offerings at the state level have had difficulty getting approved for CEs because they are seen as not fitting CE policy. We know that good practice must make psychologists aware of how to practice ethically within the political health policy structure of the state. While this may not be grounded in the scientific literature as much as other CE offerings, the ability to allow for these important symposiums and workshops must be addressed in CE policy.

Fellows Committee. Division 31 has worked hard to establish that service and legislative achievements at the SPTA level can have national implications and be just as valuable and in need of recognition through the conferring of fellow status as a publication-rich CV. SPTA Fellows also have an important role as role models within their own SPTAs. We need SPTA fellows to be a part of this committee to make sure that recognition is preserved.

Policy and Planning Board This is the group that proposed the Council of Representatives (COR)

reorganization that would have disenfranchised many SPTA and division seats on the COR. Their intent was to make COR more efficient. SPTA reps on this committee could help them realize the importance of the local voice in all its variety as well as the benefit of SPTA experiences in aiding board functioning at their local level.

Advocacy Coordinating Committee. This group is the governance group for the "one APA" advocacy effort. As advocacy occurs so frequently at the state level, it is clear that it needs SPTA leaders who appreciate the impact of decisions and workload made at this level.

APA Board of Directors This is the group that integrates all of APA as their oversight function. It is crucial that there be board members who appreciate the importance of the affiliate SPTA groups to APA. This group has such a large role in APA that it is crucial to have voices that understand the impact of decisions at the local level.

Council of Representatives It is crucial that our hard-won role to seat all SPTAs (and divisions) is preserved. Often one voice from a very small constituency can be enough to open the minds of all COR members to an impact or a solution that they hadn't considered. Our voice cannot be homogenized since the impact of a decision in California can be very different from that in Alabama.

I won't continue with all of the Boards and committees in detail but will name others that have missions important to and in
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need of representation from SPTA leaders. Think of recent APA foci which relate to: The Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI), the Finance Committee, the Board of educational Affairs, the Board of Scientific Affairs, the Commission on Accreditation, the Committee on Division/APA Relations, The committee on Professional Practice and Standards, Committee on Rural Health, Committee on Sexual

Orientation and Gender diversity, the committee on Women, and the Needs Assessment, slating and campaigns Committee. I won't go on further but I cannot stress enough the Committee on Early Career Psychologists since they are our lifeblood. While there are many great SPTA leaders on these Boards and Committees, we need to make sure our voice continues to be present.

What am I asking? I would like you all to think about getting more active in APA. Many APA

subcommittees do not go through the election process but rather are appointed. These may be easier to break into and get your name and skills recognized. There are many ways to get involved and my experience has been that whichever group at APA I became a member of, I learned a great deal, honed my leadership skills and met many wonderful colleagues. Our division has many skilled APA leaders who can help you get involved. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to be connected to one of them. We need you!

Rom-Rymer Statement

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tate some families and thwart the return to normalcy of other families and communities; the ever-escalating, murderous gun violence and the concomitant dearth of protection from gun violence; the loss of reproductive freedom and the potential loss of previously recognized constitutional rights, such as same sex marriage, and other recent, hard-won protections; the suffering caused by institutional racism, anti-Semitism, violence against BIPOC, LGBTQ+, AAPI, and disabled communities.

My life's work as trauma clinician, forensic expert, legislative advocate, law enforcement consultant, University lecturer, author, state, national, and international leader, uniquely qualifies me to be APA President.

Psychologists, because of our extraordinary education, training, and experience, have an impact, every day, on the lives of those who are suffering in our local, national, and international communities.

Because of our capacity, I wholeheartedly support the essential, frontline work of clinicians and the critical work done by academic researchers, experimental psychologists and social, forensic, industrial, organizational, the entire range of applied psychologists. I am committed to dismantling systemic racism and I am committed to listening and responding to all of the initiatives from our diverse APA communities. We will continue to powerfully speak on behalf of all psychologists!

I passionately believe in protecting clinical practice while seeking to expand practice to include: prescriptive authority; integrated behavioral health in primary care and in a variety of healthcare and medical settings; telehealth durability; community mental health; population health; and a plethora of collaborative working relationships among research scientists and scientist practitioners so that we can achieve health equity.

Having had broad experience in APA governance; including APA

Board; APA Council; Chair of the Council Leadership Team; APA Caucuses Chair; President of the Illinois Psychological Association; President of Divisions 55 and 56; and as a founder and leader of the International Prescriptive Authority Movement, I understand how to get things done!

My vision for the APA has 7 Foundational Pillars of Action:

- Identifying and disseminating the critical information on evidence-based/evidence-informed treatments for the sequelae of Covid-19; for the substance abuse and addiction disorders; and for all other psychological disorders;
- Using our effective scientific evidence to contribute to the eradication of global health disparities; the dismantling of systemic racism and antisemitism; and the achievement of health equity;
- Promoting global initiatives that will reduce the existential

Candidate Statements

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- threats to our environment and will meet the challenges and needs of climate refugees;
- Facilitating greater access to comprehensive, integrative, mental health care, including Prescriptive Authority; I wholeheartedly support subspecialty and specialty practice;
 - Promoting clinical practice and working closely with SPTA's to ensure that they have the necessary tools to address developments in state

legislatures that might erode the privacy rights of patients and erode the psychotherapist's privilege. I will ensure the financial viability of our APASI.

- Emphasizing the critical importance of scientists and psychological science, infused with EDI initiatives, fulfilling our APA mission to impact our world.
- Providing for the continued growth of an inclusive APA that ensures multidisciplinary (within Psychology), multicultural, multinational APA leadership with

representation from all minoritized and marginalized communities, including BIPOC, Jewish, LGBTQIA+, AAPI, and disabled communities.

As your President, I will walk courageously, with you, into our future. I will listen to you with respect and compassion and govern boldly. My outreach to all of our communities will be collaborative, intersectional, with an emphasis on scientific evidence and psychological knowledge, bridge-building, EDI, and gender and sexual diversity, to unravel and solve our world's toughest challenges.

Prescott Statement

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At the national level, I have served on the APAPO Committee for the Advancement of Professional Practice (CAPP) (2017-2018). I served on the APA Committee of State Leaders 2011-2014 and was elected Chair-Elect in 2013. I received the APAPO Federal Advocacy Award March 12, 2012, at SLC. I have served on the APA Board of Directors as a Member at Large and Recording Secretary. As part of serving on the APA Board, I was chosen as the liaison to CAPP (Practice) and the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB). I have chaired the Rural Health Interest Group and Caucus and served as Secretary for the Caucus of State, Provincial, and Territorial Affairs.

- **What do you perceive as being the issues of greatest concern to SPTAs, as organizations or SPTA members, and how would you address as APA**

President?

- I am concerned about threats to our profession and initiatives for the public that first are exposed at the state level (e.g., reversal of reproductive choice, threats to LGBTQ+ community, racism, discrimination of the mentally ill and those with disabilities).
- I also want to assure there is significant support for the needs of psychologists. I believe the APA Advocacy Coordinating Committee (ACC) provides a vehicle to increase the emphasis on the needs of psychologists. As President, I would be interested in determining how the ACC could consistently be informed of the needs of the psychologists who are members of state associations.

- Many of our SPTAs have small staffs and limited resources, depending on APA for financial support and assistance. As President, I would fiercely oppose cuts to support legislative grants to state associations.
- I am concerned about psychologists at the state level who have left APA. I believe we should be talking to them about their reasons for leaving, initiating change at APA to incentivize them to return to APA membership.
- Psychologists need to more easily be able to work across state lines, and APA needs to help with this. PSYPACT is one important vehicle for this effort, and this compact can only be passed at the state level. States

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- need support for this and other state-level legislation enhancing and protecting psychologists and expanding their ability to work seamlessly across state lines. In Maine, the state association recently received an award from APA for their advocacy working with the state legislature to approve PsyPact, which enables practice across state lines, increasing the available treating psychologists in rural Maine.
- Due to our sequence of training as psychologists, in many states the provision of post-doctoral supervision becomes a barrier to attracting practitioners to states that do not have sufficient opportunities for post-doctoral supervision. APA has focused on this issue and needs to continue to assist the states with addressing this, so that post-doctoral supervision does not prevent states from obtaining an adequate number of valuable psychologists.
 - Telehealth presents an opportunity for psychologists to improve our incomes by augmenting our face-to-face treatment income.
 - We need to be paid a decent wage for our work.
- We continue to need to make the case for the importance of the doctoral standard for practice at the state level, and we need scientific evidence to support our case.
 - Psychologists could potentially benefit from diversifying work in ways we have not previously considered, and APA could be helpful sharing models and resources for such diversification.
 - **Considering the APA reorganization around advocacy, what do you see are the biggest challenges integrating SPTAs into the new agenda?**

SPTAs are generally outside of the APA structure (unlike some of our divisions), and this may provide less leverage for our agenda. It is important to have strong state representation on the ACC. Our state representation can be more effective now at APA, if we are active across the “pillars” of APA. We may need to intentionally form partnerships between types of psychologists at the state level, assuring our psychologists are running for Boards and Committees and bringing a state perspective to those places within APA. The former State Leadership Conference continues to be a vehicle for promoting state-related issues, but it is broader now as Practice Leadership. Of course, Council is a place where states have a voice in directing the course of APA. It would be important to assure in any future

change in Council structure states continue to be well-represented. The State caucus is a helpful vehicle in politically assuring this representation, although technically outside of APA writ large. The expanded Board of Professional Affairs (BPA) is another place where states can have important impact, mobilizing APA to address state-level issues.

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

I am a strong advocate for the state psychological associations. I have been raised up in leadership through the state associations. I understand the importance of the state interests to APA, and as APA President, I would listen and respond to the concerns and needs of the states.

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Fall Diversity Updates

Continued from page 5
closely with Shirley Higuchi, JD, and Sarah Rose of the APA to strategize efforts to infuse EDI-related policy and practice into the IPA.

Missouri

The Missouri Psychological Association (MOPA) with the help of Dr. Mayra Zoe Ortiz, CESPPA, and Division 31 initiated an international townhall and celebration of the EDI work accomplished by state and provincial psychological associations that was attended by over 100 representatives from over 40 organizations. MOPA's advocacy chair is helping Division 31 develop a project on rural healthcare needs. MOPA's previous Diversity Officer was elected President-elect by the association's membership, which is reflective of **the** increasing representation of racial/ethnic diversity in governance. MOPA has named its first person of color to hold the position of advocacy chair. She will start in that position in December 2022. MOPA regularly participated in APA hill visits, which regularly included advocacy for EDI-related issues. The association conducted an advocacy survey of the membership. Top issues of concern for membership included healthcare access and equity, women's reproductive rights, and racism. The Diversity Committee in a second survey is asking the membership to review and make suggestions as to all aspects of the committee's work. Results are continuing to be collected. The Diversity Committee is continuing to provide expert witness services and EDI training for a public defender's

office in a large metropolitan city. MOPA's news brief, *Progress Notes*, which is our primary means to communicate with the membership, regularly contains news and research related to diversity issues. MOPA's integrated care committee in their monthly educational discussion group regularly addresses the importance of EDI issues in ways useful to practice. Diversity Committee members continue to be active in APA leadership. Our newly elected President-elect is the upcoming chair of the Committee of Aging. Our Diversity Committee chair is the Diversity co-chair for Division 31. And our newly elected Diversity Officer and soon-to-be advocacy chair is a liaison to the Advocacy Coordinating Committee for Division 54.

Pennsylvania

Over the last three years, the Pennsylvania Psychological Association has engaged in several endeavors to promote inclusivity. First, we began a book club that focused on anti-racism readings. One of the books we read as a group was *How to Be an Antiracist*. We also engaged in a monthly dialogue about the book. Another important initiative was to focus on themes around diversity and inclusion in our monthly newsletter. Several important articles have focused on the impact of diversity and inclusivity on assessment, intervention, and teaching. Another important initiative is that we have actively engaged in bringing in speakers and lectures to our webinars and conferences that can speak to various aspects of diversity. Finally, we have focused on the process. We

have explored how microaggressions within the organization can impact our interpersonal relationships. We have begun to call out these moments and used them as a teaching moment rather than something to brush over and avoid. It is a journey and has been something that our organization has fully committed to.

Vermont

The committee recently reformed with new members and have been brainstorming initiatives. The committee consulted with Dr. Nnamdi Pole from Smith College around issues including recruitment and diversity within the organization. The committee received support from the Board in supporting Vermont's Prop 2 (Prohibiting Slavery and Indentured Servitude within the state) and most recently exploring the organization's support of Article 5/Prop 22 (Personal Reproductive Liberty). Additionally, the committee has recently joined with National Association of Social Workers (NASW) - Vermont Chapter with the goal of increased collaboration between the two groups on DEI issues.



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