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PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

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

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Focus on 31

Spring 2022 • Volume 54 • Issue 1

The Country's Ablaze and Grandma Is Washing Her Hair



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

One of the things I have been doing

in my retirement is learning Yiddish. It is a very colorful language, derived from many cultures and reflective of many challenges through history. The title of this column is an old Yiddish proverb which fits well on many levels this year. My column will focus on the importance of SPTAs to psychology and to APA and moreover the importance of getting actively involved and making your voice heard. Because our role as Div. 31 is a limited one I focus on this but I am not unaware of the other crucial issues facing our country and that even if the proverb read "world" instead of "country," grandma's lack of activity would still be an issue.

As I think of the most important things to convey to SPTAs at this time, I am reminded that the importance of the SPTA voice at APA is both crucial to and never guaranteed at APA. Often when we say this, people at APA get nervous that we are diminishing the impor-

tance of APA and the substantial work they do. This is definitely not true. For those of you who don't know me, I have the somewhat unique perspective of someone who has served APA as a member of multiple governance groups including the Board of Directors as well as a staff person in the Practice Directorate as the AED of Governance Operations and of the Center for Psychology and Health. On the state level I was also an elected leader (President), then a staff person as the Director of Professional Affairs and the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Psychological Association. I began with both APA and MPA as a student member and stayed until now as a retired member of both. I have this perspective of role and history which helps me appreciate that the strength of both voices (SPTA and APA) makes for the best positioning of psychology.

There are important things happening which I want you to know about and to hopefully lend your voice and participation. I also want to preface this list with a piece of advice I have learned from my many years as an advocate:

Grandma's Washing Her Hair

Continued on page 11

"I See Trees of Green, Red Roses, Too"



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

Hopefully, we have learned from our nation's extended CO-

VID-19 pandemic the importance of telehealth, licensure mobility, and appreciating health professions graduate students as collaborative partners. Zohray Talib and I currently co-chair the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education and our members keep reminding us that undoubtedly there will be another crisis and thus, "What Have We Learned" from this experience can be applied to future COVID and non-COVID challenges. Issues include: Who are the workers in public health, community-faced health systems, in the social sector? What education, training, and competencies do they need? How can our workforce be strengthened and supported? How do we address provider, educator, student, and patient "burnout"?

Alex Siegel, ASPPB Director of Professional Affairs, reports that Wisconsin recently became the 28th PSYPACT jurisdiction, thereby representing over half of the nation's jurisdictions. APA's Jared Skillings: "PSYPACT will help improve the accessibility of our services to the public, and especial-

ly to rural and underserved communities – communities that really need our care. It also provides a way for psychologists to deliver services to patients who may not be able to leave their homes – like people with transportation challenges, disabilities, or concerns about a contagious virus." Looking to the future, Jared will be hiring a Senior Director for Independent Practice and a Project Manager for Healthcare Innovation. For those colleagues especially interested in administration and those potentially exploring unusual retirement experiences, we would suggest that ensuring that one's licensing authority has the ability to designate a license in "inactive status" provides important flexibility.

Former APA President Tony Puente, former RWJ Fellow and University of New Mexico President Bob Frank, and recent USU graduate Joanna Sells have been working closely with APA laying the foundation for addressing the potential for graduate student and post-doctoral Fellow reimbursement on several levels (under State Medicaid plans, Medicare (with APA's Alix Ginsberg), and health insurance benefits, for example). Not surprisingly, this has also been a topic of considerable discussion at our Global Forum by all of the disciplines. Mitch Prinstein, testifying before the U.S. Senate HELP Committee on behalf of APA: "It is absolutely critical that we are discussing mental health in schools, (and) that we are building into our curriculum social-emotional competence. We have

the tools to build kids' resilience. We just need the opportunity to be able to teach what we know to all those teachers and counselors and administrators, so we can help them to identify kids before they reach a moment of trauma." He called on the Congress to authorize Medicare reimbursement for care provided by psychology trainees during residency, emphasizing that there simply are not enough mental health care providers and that there is not enough investment in science to use what we know to prevent mental illness. An important policy theme which former APA President Alan Kazdin has constantly stressed.

Forever the Visionary:

"What I am describing is an approach that strives to get a jump on change, not just react to change while it is happening, or worse yet after it has already happened. Strategic resilience is a process of building an ingrained agility and flexibility that will allow us to change in evolutionary and incremental ways while avoiding the necessity of having to undergo major upheaval or cataclysmic shifts. And in that context, an important goal of strategic resilience is to deal with change that occurs around us, no matter how large, with 'zero trauma'; that is, dealing with change without incapacitating stress and distress." (Russ Newman, 2004 State Leadership Conference – *Strategic Resilience for the Profession: Getting a Jump on Change*). "Yes I think to myself what a wonderful world." (Louis Armstrong). Aloha

Div. 31 - President-Elect 2024-2025 Candidate Statement



Mayra Zoe Ortiz, Psy.D.

As we become a more pluralistic nation, we need to prepare our organization to be more diverse

and multiculturally competent. In my role as Co-Chair for Division 31's Diversity Committee, I have worked with passion and commitment, and my desire is to diversify our Division and collaborate to make APA stronger. Thus, the *APA Strategic Plan* resonates within my goals and principles.

My first job was a master level position at UMDNJ New Jersey's University of Health Sciences in Newark, NJ. Years later, as a doctoral student at Ferkauf Graduate of Psychology, Yeshiva University in the Bronx, NY, I completed my doctoral dissertation titled, *Spirituality and Depression: A Mediation Model for HIV-Positive Puerto Rican Women in New York City*.

As psychologist for 18+ years, I have continued to work with diverse populations including children, adolescents, adults, and older adults. My experience has extended to work in skilled nursing facilities and private

practice in NY, CT and GA. These experiences have given me the opportunity to address current issues such as racism, discrimination, and health inequities that perpetuate adverse health conditions.

In my role as President-Elect and President of Division 31 I look forward to collaborating with SPTAs and implementing programs that can foster EDI initiatives. I'm highly committed and dependable to the goals I embark, and I'm willing to serve for the three-year term. I believe I can contribute and support Division 31's goals and would passionately serve if given this opportunity.

ECP and Student Committee Co-chair Update



Rebecca Richey, PhD

Practice Leadership Conference 2022 went virtual in order to

protect attendees from the untimely March COVID-19 surge. Due to this change, the early career psychologist specialized programming was cancelled; however, stay tuned for some very exciting news about specialized programming for ECPs during APA conference

week! Despite the virtual format, PLC did not disappoint! The session aimed at Using Foresight to Build Resilience and Agility in Uncertain Times focused on using our inherent skills and abilities as psychologists to cope with our current uncertain lives. I personally found the Inclusive Leadership: Translating Diversity, Equity and Inclusion into Understandable Language and Action Steps session incredibly helpful. As a leader, I am always searching for education around how to focus on and invest in diversity, equity and inclusion and very much appreciated the

concrete and inspiring actions outlined in the session. In addition to programming at PLC, the Committee on Early Career Psychologists was able to meet live and in-person at APA Spring Consolidated meeting! We used the time wisely and, aside from getting to know one another in-person, we planned, collaborated, and organized our efforts for this year. We are focused on highlighting the work of diverse ECPs in a variety of different ways—again, please look out for some exciting developments in this area, coming soon!

Div. 31 News Managing Editor Named to PR Hall of Fame



Diane Slaughter, CAE, APR, Fellow PRSA

Division
31 Newsletter
Managing Editor Diane

Slaughter, CAE, APR, Fellow PRSA was one of four people inducted into the newly formed West Virginia Public Relations Hall of Fame during a ceremony Nov. 16, 2021 at West Virginia University.

“Members of our Hall of Fame represent the best of our profession through their career excellence, mentoring of others and community involvement demonstrated over decades,” said Jennifer Goddard, APR, president of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) West Virginia Chapter. “They are the best of the best.”

Slaughter formed Homestead Communications in 1993, one of the state’s first independent, female-owned firms. Also a champion of PR students, she is professional adviser of the West Virginia State University student society. She is also a Fellow, elected in 2006.

During her introduction, Aly Goodwin Gregg highlighted some of Slaughter’s many achievements, including:

- From volunteer to Executive Director, and countless jobs and roles in between, Diane transitioned in the Public Relations Society of America-

West Virginia Chapter from volunteer to Chief ‘Volunteller.’

- What began as an idea in 1979, grew to a vibrant network of professionals throughout the Mountain State. This was all done simultaneously as Diane grew her own personal practice.
- During her tenure as Executive Director, Diane mentored numerous chapter members and supported the next generation of practitioners through mentoring PRSSA chapters throughout the state.
- Diane’s role and contributions are significant throughout West Virginia and especially in the metro Charleston valley. If you are on the campus of West Virginia State University, you might happen upon the Diane Slaughter Public Relations Research Laboratory. A former adjunct professor at State, Diane remains an active mentor for the public relations field of study, embracing her role to bring new talent into this critical field.
- Diane is an Accredited Public Relations professional and has been for more than 32 years, and a Fellow in the Public Relations Society of America College of Fellows for 15 years. Diane has been recognized on numerous occasions as a role model because of her exceptional contributions to the advancement of public relations.

- With her many shelves teaming with more than 30 national, regional, and state awards, there is no question of Diane’s lasting impact on this field.

But recognitions and honors are nothing new. She is also a Certified Association Executive, a former Practitioner of the Year, and has been recognized as outstanding executive director of the year by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons for her work with the WV Chapter.

- In 2019, as Diane handed off the reigns for the PRSA West Virginia Chapter and the chapter celebrated its 40th anniversary, she was recognized by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors as the West Virginia Chapter’s Director Emeritus in honor of her outstanding contributions and impact.
- At the time, to honor Diane’s years of service to the PRSA organization, she was presented with the Founder’s Plate, given to our founders at the time of our Chapter’s establishment. Since that time, the plate had been passed from President to President, but it was fitting as the 40th anniversary was marked to give that important artifact to Diane.

*The full article can be read within the [2021 Fall issue of the WV Orthopaedic Society newsletter](#).

Division 31 Council Summary February 2022



Peter M. Oppenheimer, PhD
APA Council Representative

Council had a productive session at the end of February. Below is the official summary of the Council meeting.

I want to fill you in on some major activities that were not on the Council agenda this session but that will impact the future of APA governance.

There have been two major efforts to address the future functioning of Council.

Council's internal process to address how it can become an effective as the APA's legislative body addressing outward facing policy is now in its third year. Last August Council created two task forces. One the Council Effectiveness Implementation Oversight Work Group is completing work on a series of 20 recommendation generated by Council members that will address Council Process. The other is the Council Leadership Team Evaluation Task Force. It is doing what its name says. Both groups will implement effective changes that will engage the Council to work better and ensure that Council continues to represent our broad multifaceted diversity.

The Policy and Planning Board had been circulating a proposal to restructure Council into what they called an "assembly." That body would have disenfranchised

state associations and divisions from representation in the Council. The plan was very deeply flawed in many ways. P&P responded to the feedback they received in their "listening sessions" with Council members and other governance leaders announcing that they would not pursue the proposal *this year*. That will enable the Council Effectiveness and CLT workgroups to continue their work without a major distraction this year. I note that P&P left open that they may pick up their scheme in the future, all of our SPTAs must remain alert for that.

I also want to advise you that the Exploratory Committee on Applied Psychology is seeking to get Council to create a Board of Applied Psychology as a fifth pillar in the APA structure. Creating this Board would rupture the existing pillars of practice, education, science, and public interest in a very divisive way. I see ways that the interests of applied psychologists can be appropriately served within the four existing pillars. The formal proposal has not been distributed publicly. I expect that I will be sharing more information about this soon. Please be on the lookout for it.

I want to express my appreciation our SPTA representatives who collaborated well together during the Council meeting and who helped to communicate to P&P that their proposal was not in the best interests of the APA, divisions, SPTA, our membership, and the profession and science of psychology. My appreciation, too, to all the SPTA leaders and our Division 31

Board Members who contributed feedback to P&P.

APA Council of Representatives Meeting Overview

February 25 & 26, 2022

The Council of Representatives received a comprehensive audit of current anti-racism activities by APA, including policies, practices and procedures aimed at stemming racial inequities and promoting equity, diversity and inclusion. This was the next step in a process detailed in a resolution Council passed in October that accompanied an apology for past racist actions and omissions by APA and the discipline of psychology.

"We are trying to do something the association has not done before," APA President Frank C. Worrell, PhD, said in introducing the audit. "Eradicating racism is not an easy thing ... so this will take a lot of hard dialogues."

APA CEO Arthur C. Evans Jr., PhD, noted that APA is engaged in a wide array of racial equity activities but until now, they had not been coordinated. "Our members and our leaders want us to have impact, not just activity," he said. "This is an organizational commitment that we've made."

The audit opens the door to the next phase of APA's work in this area: creation of a roadmap of prioritized actions aimed at dismantling racism. Those proposed actions will be presented to the Council in August, as directed in the resolution passed in October 2021.

Council Report
Continued on page 13

Division 31 SPTA Updates



Jennifer Kelly,
PhD, ABPP
Past President
APA

Alberta

There are three key new developments from Alberta. First, we have done an extensive package (thanks to our Public Education Committee) on accessing a psychologist. This includes a video, infographic, and small booklet that detail private versus public services, how to gain access, copay, and what to expect. Second, we have partnered with a psychologist in the province who is leading a \$9 million funded grant to provide and assess behavioral health interventions in the workplace. Finally, we have fostered some new partnerships with targeted non-partisan advocacy health groups to further our own advocacy messaging.

British Columbia

In British Columbia, Primary Care Networks (PCN) has been a huge focus of our Ministry of Health. However, there is no requirement for Primary Care Networks to include a psychologist, and those who have chosen to include one are currently offering union rate of compensation which is significantly lower than what most psychologists can earn in private practice. We are working closely with our government to

incentivize the inclusion of psychologists within these PCNs by reducing the cost to the PCN, compensating closer to market rate, and implementing research-based models of care. This is currently our largest advocacy initiative. On a more creative note, we have been working on increasing our social media presence but creating aesthetic graphics on psychology and politics.

Georgia

Georgia Psychological Association has been active on several fronts in recent months. As the Georgia legislative session has been meeting since early January, our lobbying team from Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough has been excellent partners with Anita Brown, GPA DPA, and Daniel Rogers, chair of the Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee, to tackle several major pieces of legislation – including a threat to the definition of psychological testing by LPCs; a proposed new licensing board and scope of practice for Applied Behavioral Analysts; and efforts to exclude transgender girls from sports. On a very positive note, Speaker David Ralston unveiled the mental health parity bill – an outgrowth of the Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission, with the goal to help address concerns around access to mental health services and treatment in Georgia.

The 75th Anniversary of GPA will be celebrated at a special event on April 30 with acknowledgments of many contributors to the suc-

cess and accomplishments of GPA through the years. It will also be a time to recognize Jennifer F. Kelly, PhD, a long-time strong leader within GPA who also provided strong leadership within APA and is now in her year as 2022 past-president.

Idaho

Members of the Idaho Psychological Association (IPA) have been on a wild ride since the beginning of 2022! In the past 20+ years, IPA has introduced only one bill (RxP), for three years in a row, but on one topic. In mid January, we suddenly had two bills on our plate in the same legislative session. They were PSYPACT and a bill to fix Idaho's law on regulating and issuing permits for psychology Service Extenders. We expected the 20-page PSYPACT bill to be a heavy lift in "anti-regulation" Idaho, but we didn't anticipate a quick fix to continue a process already working for nearly 30 years would be so difficult. Surprisingly, the PSYPACT bill went through smoothly. However, an organization that has become especially powerful in our state and ranks bills and legislators on their "Idaho Freedom Index" webpage, gave our Service Extender bill a -2 rating (not good!). Our members who testified did an incredible job. However, it failed on the House floor. That same day, the Chair of the House Health & Welfare Committee, a retired physician who caused us much anguish with our

SPTA Updates

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Integrated Care Task Force Update

Stella Nelms, PhD

Co-chair

Nataliya Pilipenko, PhD, ABPP

Co-chair

The Integrated Care Task Force continues to meet monthly. Co-chairs (Dr. Nelms and Dr. Pilipenko) have assumed leadership starting January 2022. At this

point, co-chairs are working with the existing members of the Task Force on the following:

1. Expansion of groups' membership/recruitment of new members;
2. Review of Task Force's prior deliverables and projects to determine necessary updates;

3. Discussion of new goals and deliverables for the Task Force; and
4. Designing and administering needs assessment tool to determine best ways in which the Task Force can serve broader APA community.

Nominations Wanted

Div. 31 annual Outstanding Psychologist Award nominations due June 1.

Nominations are wanted for Div. 31's annual Outstanding Psychologist Award. Nominations and supporting materials should be sent to Awards Chair Kathleen Ashton, PhD, ABPP ASHTONK@ccf.org by June 1, 2022.

Supporting materials should include a letter of recommendation from the person(s) making the nomination stating reasons why the nominee should be considered. The letter should highlight some of the aspects mentioned below. Also, please forward the curriculum vitae of nominee. The Outstanding Psychologist Award honors a psychologist whose distinguished contributions might include:

- Demonstrating outstanding leadership in state, provincial, or territorial psychological associations.
- Advocating for psychology through state, provincial, or territorial psychological associations.
- Impacting psychology and our clients through distinguished service.
- Serving as a role model for active participation in organized psychology.
- Being a volunteer SPTA member (Required).
-

The deadline is June 1, 2022.

Div. 31 Board Meets Virtually for Midwinter Session

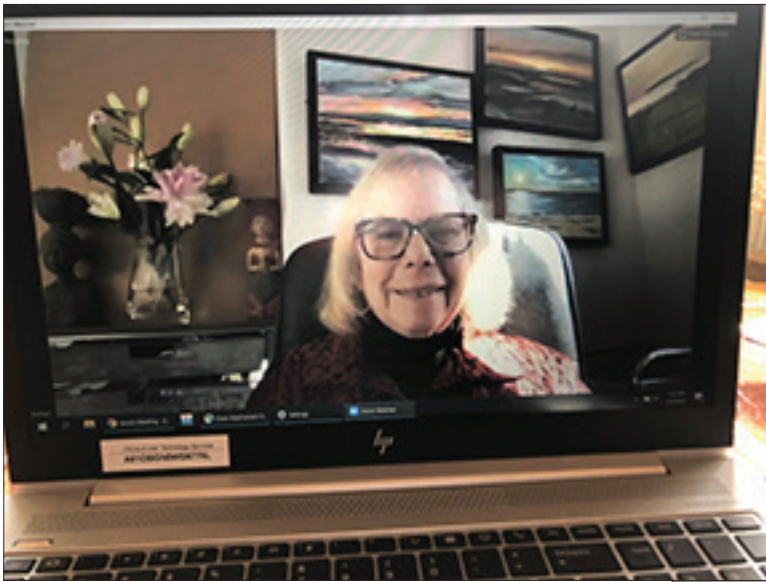


Division 31 President Elena Eisman, EDD, conducted the February meeting of the Board of Directors virtually.

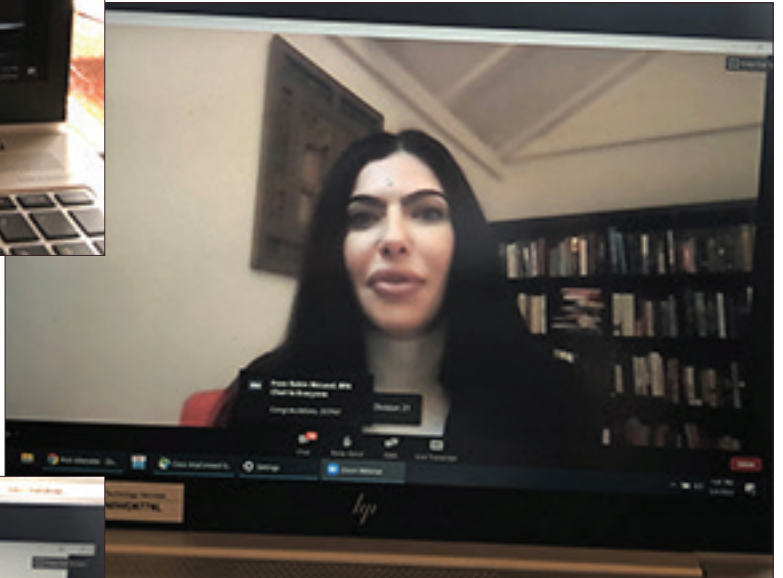
Members of the Division 31 Board of Directors met virtually during the winter.



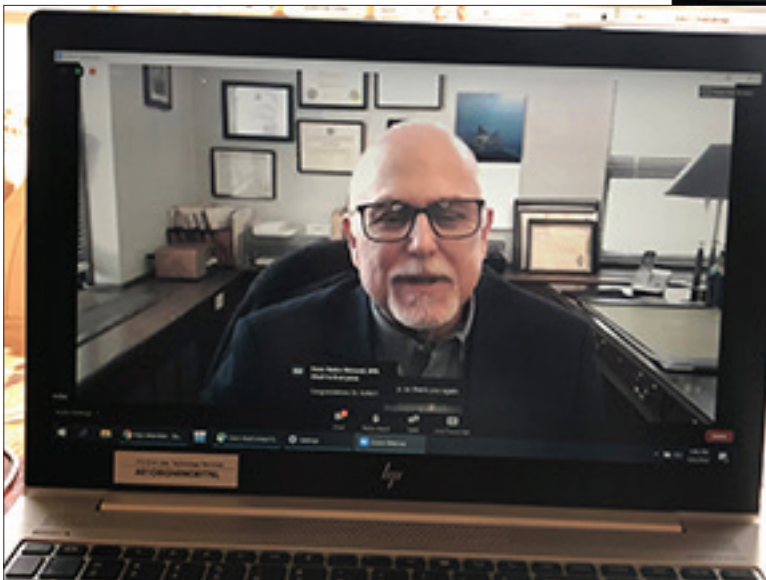
Division 31 Awards Presented During Virtual 2022 APA PLC



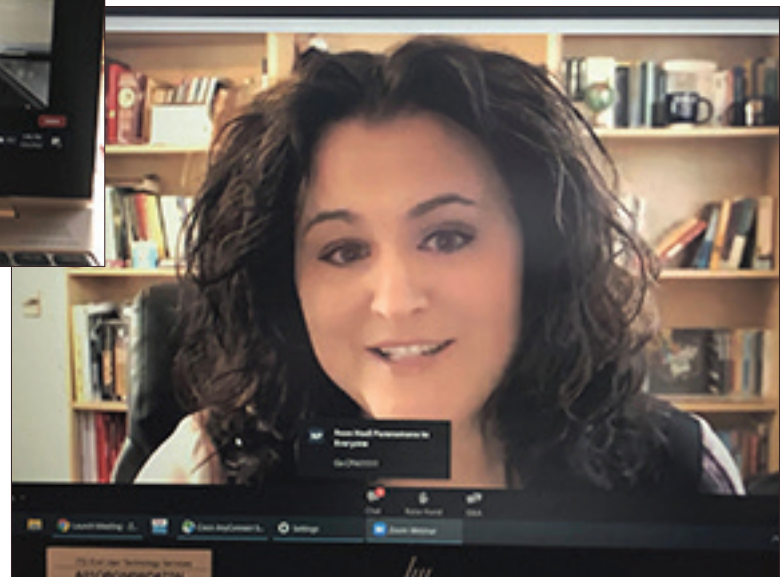
Left, Division 31 President Dr. Elena Eisman announced winners of several awards during the APA PLC.



At right, the Diversity Award, presented to the DC Psychological Association, was accepted by President Dr. Samira Paul.



The SPTA Staff Member of the Year was awarded to Dr. Terence Koller (shown at left) of the Illinois Psychological Association.



Members of the Connecticut Psychological Association received the SPTA of the Year award, accepted by Dr. Jennifer Doren, shown at right.

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Check Out This Convention Sneak Peek



**Eric Russ,
PhD
Convention
Program
Chair**

APA Convention 2022 will be by August 4-6th in Minneapolis.

The plan now is for an in person convention with a hybrid component (e.g., some poster sessions may be virtual, some presenters on panels may be virtual, etc.).

Div 31 is planning on in person meetings and events.

The Division 31 Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 4th from 8:00am to 11:00am.

The Division 31 Social hour is

scheduled for Friday, August 5th from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

The Heiser Awards will be presented on Thursday, August 4th from 1:00pm to 2:50 pm

We will have a somewhat smaller program this year with the challenges around a Convention Chair but we look forward to seeing everyone at our events and especially at our first in person social in 3 years!

Grandma's Washing Her Hair

Continued from page 1

When opposing an issue, don't just voice your concerns, but listen to the concerns of the group making the proposal and try to also provide some suggestions of how they can answer their concerns while still addressing your needs. This gives credence to your feedback and prevents you from having to come back with another round of opposition with no suggestion for solution. I will illustrate by giving several issues which are active today where you can lend your voice and activity.

Representation on Council

This issue was widely shared with you when the original Policy and Planning Board (P&P) reorganization was presented to the Council of Representatives (COR). Your overwhelming response to this proposal which would eliminate SPTA and Divisional seats on council has led to P&P rethinking

the plan. Congratulations- that's what your voice could do, but this is not over so please be vigilant when more feedback comes to you about this issue.

Listening Sessions on Doctoral Competencies in Health Service Psychology

The Board of Professional Affairs cordially invites you to a listening session to provide feedback to the [BEA/ BPA Task Force on Doctoral Competencies in Health Service Psychology \(HSP\)](#). This task force was appointed jointly by the Board of Professional Affairs (BPA) and the Board of Educational Affairs (BEA) to update the existing competencies for those graduating with a doctoral degree in HSP. The task force has identified three questions for which it seeks broad feedback so as to guide its work. During this listening session, attendees will be asked to provide feedback to the following questions posed by the task force:

- **We will be grounding the competencies in Equity,**

Diversity, & Inclusion (EDI) principles. How would you suggest we might best do that?

- **What makes the doctoral degree in HSP distinctive from master's degree in HSP and other mental health service fields?**
- **Thinking about the future of HSP, what should we be preparing psychologists to be able to do?**

Second Listening Session: April 28, 2022 1-2pm ET

The first listening session took place on April 12. To register in advance for the second listening session meeting. [click here](#).

These listening sessions are very important since they allow you to provide feedback to the groups proposing policy at an early stage before they submit the final proposal for ratification. Please consider giving your feedback

Grandma's Washing Her Hair
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Grandma's Wshing Her Hair

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Future of the Practice Leadership Conference

Dr Jared Skillings has called for a look at PLC to vision this important conference into the future. As this has been the single most important conference for SPTAs, Div. 31 has been invited to the work group and as this process moves along you will be hearing from us as we describe the thinking and ask for feedback from you. Please respond.

Boards and Committees nominations

All APA Boards and Committees add members through the nomination process. Sometimes notifications are posted to listserves but not often. Do not wait for a posting. If you are interested in a particular Board or committee reach out to the APA person staffing it to make sure you are told about the slates they are looking to fill for that group. Many important boards and committees have no, or limited voices of SPTAs and this can have implications for policies set which impact SPTAs in areas such as practice, continuing education, training and education, licensure and others. We need your participation.

Here is an example of a current notice bounced to our listserve.

The APA Ethics Committee is seeking nominations for the following slate: Psychologist with expertise at the intersection of ethics and culture, equity, diversity, and inclusion; and/or a psychologist with expertise in sexual misconduct and boundary issues, and/or interpersonal violence,

and traumatic stress for a three-year period beginning in January of 2023.

If you would like to be considered as a nominee, please complete the survey at the following link by April 11, 2022: <https://forms.gle/yNy6TRKdxcagkVmM8>

Div. 31 Strategic Planning

We have an outdated strategic plan and lots of work to do effectively. We need to plan for the future. I reached out to division 13 (Consulting Psychology) to get help with this project and Dr Judith Blanton responded by putting together a group of 4 consulting psychologists to help us. Our small steering committee includes voices from our leadership including the diversity committee and ECP voice. As we go through this process, we will be reaching out to you for your input. Please let us know what you most need from the division and how you feel we can be most effective in representing your needs to APA and beyond.

Membership and Activity

At the risk of sounding like Uncle Sam, we need You and We Need Your Colleagues. Like other groups at APA, we have an aging membership and a dearth of students and ECPs and mid-career members of SPTA leadership. We also need to increase diversity of our members at all levels. I am asking each one of you to reach out to your SPTA leadership to encourage them to join and become active in Division 31. We are the division that launched the careers of many APA leaders and leaders in other divisions. We created a path to fellowship at APA that recognized state level advocacy and activity to add

to the existing paths of research and publications.

Most importantly, I am a firm believer that more traditional psychology needs to give and allow room to the newer and broader voices and be able to listen to and value those who will be on the front lines of the future. I end with another Yiddish proverb:

“Once it was the parents who taught their children to talk; now the children teach their parents to keep quiet” (or better, to listen.)

Visit the
Div. 31 web
site
for current
information
and blog
posts on
information
of
importance.

Council Report

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Other key actions during the Council's meeting Feb. 25-26 included accepting a report by the Task Force on Climate Change; adopting new standards for the teaching of high school psychology; adopting a policy on population health; reaffirming APA's support for women's health, including the right to legal abortion; and eliminating a question on the association's membership application regarding whether an applicant has been convicted of a felony.

Ukraine

In response to the escalating situation in Ukraine, the Council quickly drafted and passed a motion voicing solidarity with the National Psychological Association of Ukraine, the Ukrainian people, and colleagues in the Eastern European region, as the Ukrainian nation defended itself against military invasion. The vote was 167-0, with one abstention.

Climate Change

The Council received the report of the APA Task Force on Climate Change, "Addressing the Climate Crisis: An Action Plan for Psychologists." The report calls on the discipline of psychology to strengthen its capacity to address climate change and collaborate with other fields and sectors for maximal impact. The report was received by a vote of 155-6 with one abstention.

Reproductive Rights

The Council adopted a *Resolution for Reproductive Justice: Affirming Abortion Access*, committing the association to continuing to work for and support

reproductive justice. This includes helping to preserve the right to legal abortion and supporting equal access to affordable contraception, comprehensive sex education, and freedom from sexual violence for women and child-bearing individuals, with particular emphasis on those from marginalized groups. The measure passed by a vote of 145-14 with five abstentions.

Population Health

The Council voted 154-6 with three abstentions to pass a policy regarding psychology's role in advancing population health. The measure calls for working within and across diverse systems to advance population health, which focuses on improving the health, health equity, safety, and well-being of entire populations, including individuals within those populations. The policy also advocates for working upstream by promoting prevention and early intervention strategies. It also urges psychologists to enlist and educate a diverse array of community partners.

High School Psychology Standards

The Council voted unanimously to adopt revised *National Standards for High School Psychology Curricula*, with an increased focus on the scientific underpinnings of the field and the importance of incorporating diversity into understanding mental health. The revised standards promote the scientific nature of psychology by making scientific inquiry and research methods the foundation for content cutting across all units in high school psychology courses, including biological bases for behavior, cognition, development and

learning, social and personality, and physical and mental health.

Interrogation of Criminal Suspects

The Council adopted, by a vote of 160-1 with one abstention, an updated resolution regarding the interrogation of criminal suspects. The new measure will strengthen APA's standing as an authoritative voice for psychology by providing more up-to-date scientific evidence on this topic, especially in light of issues related to false confessions.

Poverty and Socioeconomic Status

In recognition of later research into these issues, the Council voted to archive a policy from 2000 and adopt a new resolution recommitting APA to advocate for culturally sensitive and inclusive research that examines the causes and impact of poverty across the lifespan, including structural racism, economic disparities, and related intersectional issues. The new policy was adopted by a vote of 162-0 with two abstentions.

Changes to Membership Policy and Procedures

The Council voted to remove the question on the APA membership form asking if applicants have been convicted of a felony. Proponents of removing the question argued that it was discriminatory, deterred otherwise qualified people from joining the association and needlessly stalled the process of becoming a member. The policy change passed by a vote of 157-9, with two abstentions.

The Council passed a motion to request APA membership to vote to

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amend the APA Bylaws to update the mission of the Membership Board and related amendments to the Association Rules.

Additionally, the Council voted to request APA membership vote to amend the APA Bylaws to allow associate members voting privileges after one year of associate membership.

Guidelines Adopted as APA policy

- The Council voted unanimously

to adopt revised *Guidelines for Assessment and Intervention with Persons with Disabilities*.

- The Council also adopted *Guidelines for Child Custody Evaluations in Family Law Proceedings*, which promote ethically informed practice in disputes over decision making, parenting time, and access to children when relationships dissolve. The vote was 162-1 with four abstentions.
- The Council adopted revised *Guidelines for Ethical*

Conduct in the Care and Use of Nonhuman Animals in Research, which are widely used in the education and training of psychological scientists. The guidelines passed by a vote of 163-0 with one abstention.

- And the Council adopted revised *Guidelines for Ethical Conduct of Behavioral Projects Involving Human Participants by High School Students* by a vote of 147-9 with six abstentions.

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RxP bill, took steps to help us get a revised Service Extender bill going with only two weeks left in the session. Four days later, our new bill, with another -2 rating, was back up for debate on the House floor. Knowing it was going to be close, IPA leaders Lyn McArthur, Kendra Westerhaus and Susan Martin spent one evening reaching out to everyone they knew (wouldn't be surprised if ex-boyfriends or ex-Mother-in-Laws were included!) to ask them to send messages of support to legislators. HUNDREDS of messages (we only have 120+ IPA members) were sent. Our tireless lobbyist reported that legislators kept coming up to him saying they were hearing from our people. It made the difference, the bill passed 47-20! Both bills have now been signed by the Governor.

Illinois

The Illinois legislature introduced 9,923 bills this session,

which were reviewed by the Illinois Psychological Association for relevance to the profession of psychology and the people we serve. We had a very successful legislative session and were part of a coalition that passed several important bills including HB3308, a bill that requires insurance companies to cover telehealth services, when clinically appropriate and medically necessary in the same manner as any other benefits covered under the policy. Of course, this bill only applies to insurance plans that are regulated by the state. Another bill that became law, SB 1974, states that no recoupment or offset may be requested or withheld from future insurance payments 12 months or more after the original payment is made, except in cases in which an insurer contracted with the Department of Healthcare and Family Services is required to recoup or offset payments due to a federal Medicaid requirement. Our law previously gave insurers 18 months to recover these payments.

Manitoba

The Manitoba Psychological Society (MPS) is a non-profit organization of Manitoba psychologists founded in 1966. Its purpose is to further the use of psychology, as a science and profession, in the service of human health, welfare, and quality of life. Over the past year, MPS has maintained an active advocacy role through ongoing contacts with the Ministers of Health, Mental Health, Families, and Justice and through its engagement with media on psychological access issues. MPS also completed a follow-up survey with its members to better understand the ongoing impact of the pandemic on psychologists' practice and to obtain additional practice information relevant to our advocacy efforts. MPS continues to make strides towards ensuring its practices and priorities support diversity, cultural competency and safety, truth and reconciliation, equity and inclusion, and

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anti-racist practices. As part of this process, MPS established and awarded its first annual Indigenous Student Bursary, arranged for a local Elder to provide teaching on land acknowledgments, and collaborated with MPS' Social Action Committee to arrange a communal reading of excerpts of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and related teaching by a local Elder. Recognizing this is an ongoing process, MPS has made a commitment to creating a list of action steps that will be revisited and revised on an annual basis.

Minnesota

The Minnesota Psychological Association (MPA) is looking forward to a successful 2022! We are continuing to host most educational sessions online but are looking forward to having our 86th Annual Conference back in person in April! We are also adding in a virtual President's Conference with a focus on Child Psychology and are planning our third Multicultural Conference. Our committees and divisions have done an outstanding job of keeping our members connected virtually by hosting a variety of discussion forums and socials. The MPA Legislative Committee continues to advocate for the passing of the Provider Tax bill, which would transfer a tax levied by the state to fund public insurance plans away from small business/practice owners to large insurance companies. Additionally, we are working to support the passing of a bill that would

license behavioral analysts under the Board of Psychology, as well as advocate to increase outpatient Medicaid reimbursement rates and pass a ban on conversion therapy. MPA facilitated our first annual Psych Week on the Hill between February 21st to February 23rd, during which MPA members and MPA leadership met with several state legislators to advocate for these issues and other topics relevant to the practice of psychology in Minnesota.

Missouri

The Missouri Psychological Association, although a small association, continues to be very active. We have recently changed our bylaws to encourage a greater voice by members in our election process. We have begun to update the language in that document in a way that is more consistent with EDI guidelines and standards. Our Diversity Committee continues to provide expert testimony for a public defenders' office in a large metro area to encourage fairness to underrepresented groups based on psychological science. Our Integrated Care Committee is providing monthly free CE training on a wide range of health-related topics (e.g., sleep, weight management). We are pursuing a bill in the legislature to better protect telehealth, particularly audio-only telehealth. We have begun a student committee that is focused on a research project to identify best practices by SPTAs in how they support students. Delaware Psychological Association and MOPA have teamed and will be doing regular interviews with other SPTAs on what their SPTAs are doing that are particularly innovative. MOPA will provide in April for a second time free CE

ethics training that meets the new state licensure board requirements. We are planning for our first in-person event in two years. We continue our involvement and deep commitment to APA and have members and staff who are board members on CESPPA, Division 31, the ACC, and the Committee on Aging.

Oklahoma

Oklahoma's legislative session began the first week of February and OPA hosted the House Republican Caucus lunch the first week followed by the Senate Democratic and House Rural Caucus the second week. All of this was so beneficial as COVID has heightened the awareness of behavioral health issues and we actually are enjoying legislators helping to advocate for psychology. While deadlines for Committees have passed and the week of March 21st being deadlines on the House and Senate floor, we feel confident that progress is being made on efforts to allow postdocs and those in residency to be able to bill commercial insurance for working under the direction of psychologists. This can currently be done under Medicaid in our state. Additionally, collaboration with the Oklahoma State Medical Association and the Oklahoma Nurses Association hopefully will make headway on opposition to SB 1287 which is a Governor request bill to change who nominates psychologists and laypersons to the OK State Board of Examiners of Psychologists. There are also conversations and educational meetings regarding physician oversight being a barrier to psychologists and access to their patients in a hospital setting. We have also endorsed efforts by the Healthy Minds Policy Initiative on key bills.



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