



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

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

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Focus on

31

Spring 2024 • Volume 57 • Issue 1

Critical Time for Psychology with Opportunities for Impact



**By Raymond
A. Folen,
PhD, ABPP
Division 31
President**

Aloha!

This is a critical time for psychologists. We have the opportunity to make a real impact on what psychological practice will look like in the near and distant future.

It is a pleasure and an honor to serve as the Division 31 president for 2025. I hope to follow in the footsteps of Mayra Zoe Ortiz, PsyD and our other past presidents in ensuring that Division 31 continues to serve as a champion and critical voice for our 60 state, provincial and territorial psychological associations (SPTAs) and their members.

This is a critical time for psychologists. We have the opportunity to make a real impact on what psychological practice will look like in the near and distant future. Maintaining our professional identity, addressing licensure issues, expanding the scope of psychological services (e.g., RxP), improving

reimbursement, PSYPACT, advocating for our patients, and the unprecedented impact of technology are some of the ongoing initiatives and challenges that SPTAs take up every year, particularly with state legislatures and policy makers.

To share with you an example of what I mean: just two years ago, in the small state of Hawai'i where I serve as executive director of the psychological association (HPA), we spent tens of thousands of dollars and put in hundreds of hours of time to secure passage of two bills that would increase access to care. We passed bills on insurance reimbursement for psychology post-doc services provided under supervision to help address the critical need for behavioral health care in our state, and telephone-only telehealth that allows our 'ku-puna' (elders) to receive services via a medium more comfortable and available to them. While these were relatively non-controversial bills, the time and energy required for their passage was staggering. For most SPTAs, engaging in these types of initiatives – on a sustained yearly basis – is a huge challenge; the majority of SPTAs are quite

Opportunities for impact

Continued on page 13

Div. 31 President-Elect Candidate Statement Shared



Peter Oppenheimer, PhD

I am honored to stand for election as Division 31's President. I seek to continue to support our SPTAs to be effective in addressing the challenges they and their members experience in their communities, and in contending with APA. Division 31 can help our SPTAs support their membership through the upcoming years of transition of our profession, civic and governmental disruption.

Serving as President will enable me to pursue an initiative from

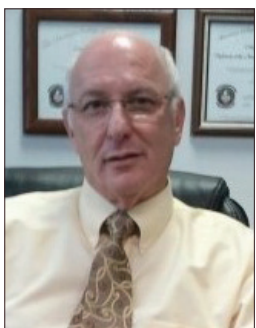
my presidential platform: APA can assist state provincial and territorial associations (SPTAs) to help students and early career psychologists (ECPs) enter the field of psychology. APA can develop and financially support resources that enable SPTAs to create and sustain educational programs to assist students and ECPs to pursue further education, navigate licensing and find work opportunities that meet their goals. These local resources will often be more accessible and relevant to students and ECPs than those provided at the national level. Students and ECPs will connect with their SPTAs, building collaborative relationships in their local professional communities.

For over 30 years I have worked with APA, Divisions 31 and 42 (Independent Practice), the Rhode Island Psychological As-

sociation, the Rhode Island Board of Psychology, the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards and the PSYPACT Commission to support our profession in service of enhancing what psychology and psychologists can do for the public good. I have served Division 31 as Secretary and Council Representative. I have served in the leadership of the Rhode Island Psychological Association since 1996 including serving two terms as President (1998-1999 & 2014-2015). I have been involved in the Rhode Island Psychological Association's legislative and advocacy efforts since 1991 and led their advocacy program since 1998. Since 2018 I have served as their first Director of Professional Affairs.

Division 31 and our SPTAs have a pivotal role in the future of our profession.

Div. 31 Council of Representatives Candidate Statements



Craig Fabrikant, PhD

I am hoping and looking forward to your vote to become a member of the Council of Representatives for Division 31. This Division is of vital importance to the future of Psychology.

For the last fourteen years I have been very involved in the Florida Psychological Association.

In 2023 I was President and I am now the immediate Past-President. Within the Florida Psychological Association, I have held a number of other leadership positions. These have included chairing a number of committees and being a member of others. I was the chair of the Forensic Division and the Child, Adolescent, and Family Division, I also spent two years as Chair of the Broward County Chapters. Over the past number of years as the Ethics Chair and as the Membership Chair. I am also currently a Member at Large for Division 42, Society for Independent Practice.

Prior to coming to Florida,

I was in New Jersey. I was an active member of the New Jersey Psychological Association which I joined as a full member in 1984. I am still a member. There are a number of other professional organizations that I have had leadership roles in. I was President of the Florida Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts and was Secretary of the Florida Academy of Collaborative Professionals.

If elected I also intend to continue placing a strong emphasis on DEI. Work in this area starts at the SPTA level. I am looking forward to continuing to serve the Division and all of you as we move forward into the future.

Div. 31 Council of Representatives Candidate Statements



**Kamieka O.
S. Gabriel,
PhD**

I am honored to be nominated for APA Council Representative for Division 31. Throughout my career, I have had experiences where I was able to be a voice for psychologists, psychology and SPTAs through advocacy and advisory roles within my state (Georgia) and nationally.

These experiences greatly align with Division 31's mission.

For example, I was president of the Georgia Psychological Association (GPA) at a time when everyone was trying to get back to "normal" post-pandemic. This was a pivotal time when psychologists needed resources to learn how to continue their work in a way that was best for them and the people they served. During this time, I also collaborated with the Legal & Legislative and Membership committees, and Diversity Directorate to create opportunities for connection for many who felt isolated lacking support.

Currently, I am Member at Large of the APA Board of Professional Affairs (BPA), BPA's Liaison to the Committee of State Leaders, and Division 31's Liaison to the Committee on Women in Psychology. Along with my work with GPA and APA, I am a licensed psychologist in private practice which has allowed me to have a deepened understanding of a broad range of practice issues.

Therefore, these roles show that I have a strong foundation to represent Division 31 at APA Council. I am passionate about SPTAs, advocacy, and being able to impact the future of psychology and the profession.

Div. 31 Council of Representatives Candidate Statements



**Chuck
Hollister,
PhD**

My name is Chuck Hollister. It is an honor to again be nominated to represent Division 31 on the APA Council of Representatives. My dedication to our state, provincial, and territorial psychological associations (SPTAs), APA, and the broader field of psychology is deeply rooted.

As an APA member, I have served on the Advocacy

Coordinating Committee, guiding APA's advocacy agenda, and the Strategic Plan Update Committee, shaping APA's future directions and priorities. My work on the Update Committee saw the SPTAs recognized for the first time in the Strategic Plan. I was a central figure in helping secure increased funding from APA for the small state operational grants and SPTA legislative grants for the first time in 17 years. I am a founding member of the National Register's new SPTA advocacy award along with Division 31's Diversity Leadership Task Force. Additionally, I contribute to Division 42's Advocacy Team, which supports psychologists in

independent practice. This year, I was elected Council caucus chair for the SPTAs, leading the review of Council items from a SPTA perspective.

After the firing of three senior staff and the reorganization of APA services, I played a pivotal role in facilitating an independent town hall for Council members to voice their concerns and organized a Council discussion in supporting APA to be a more member-driven organization. My ongoing advocacy efforts focus on improved reimbursement for psychologists, promoting social justice, while supporting our SPTAs.

Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Div. 31 Member-at-Large Candidate Statements



**David
Pascale,
PhD**

I am honored to be nominated for the position of Member-at-Large for APA Division 31. Over the past two years, I have served Division 31 as the liaison on LGBTQIA+ issues and chaired the Art Silent Auction in December 2024. These roles have deepened

my commitment to advancing the division's mission through advocacy, financial growth, and member recruitment. I am eager to continue this work by bringing innovative ideas to strengthen Division 31's financial position and expand its membership.

Beyond my work with Division 31, I have been an active member of my State, Provincial, and Territorial Association (Kentucky) for the past 10 years, serving as a board member, regional representative, convention chair, and advocate for public education. I am also a university professor, and a private practice clinician. My

experiences give me a unique and well-rounded understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing SPTAs and their membership, particularly in today's evolving social and political landscape. I am committed to fostering collaboration, enhancing SPTA resources, and advocacy efforts to ensure that SPTAs remain strong!

I will bring my diverse leadership experience to expand Division 31's reach, engage members, and strengthen its role in supporting SPTAs. I would be honored to serve in this role and contribute to the Division's continued success.

Div. 31 Member-at-Large Candidate Statements



**Diana
Prescott,
PhD**

Dr. Diana L. Prescott completed her BA at Butler University, PhD in clinical psychology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and predoctoral internship at the Indiana University School of Medicine. She is a licensed psychologist in Indiana and Maine. Dr. Prescott directs a rural health consulting practice evaluating

and treating women and children. She has developed the integrated behavioral health component of Eastern Maine Medical Center's pediatric obesity program. Diana has supervised clinical psychology doctoral students at the University of Maine-Orono as an adjunct professor.

Dr. Prescott chaired the APA Committee on Rural Health. She received the APAPO Federal Advocacy Award and the Division 31 Heiser Award, and she served on the Committee of State Leaders. In 2023, she was awarded a Presidential Citation for her work in rural health at the APA Grassroots Capitol Hill Fly-In.

She was elected to the APA Council of Representatives, as

Member at Large, and Recording Secretary on the Board of Directors. She has volunteered as Federal Advocacy Coordinator for MePA for over 20 years. She participates in the APA Integrated Primary Care and Integrated Specialty Care Advisory Groups.

Dr. Prescott has presented internationally on rural integrated care in Milan, Italy; Yokohama, Japan; Porto, Portugal; Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Montreal, Canada; Ljubljana, Slovenia; Brighton, UK; and Prague, Czech Republic. She is serving as Member at Large on the IAAP Board of Directors and Secretary of Professional Practice Division 17. She is devoted to advocacy on the behalf of psychologists and their clients.

Div. 31 Treasurer Candidate Statement



**Nanci Klein,
PhD**

I am honored to be considered for re-election to Treasurer of Division 31. During my past tenure, Division 31 has maintained a balanced budget while being able to fund its important award initiatives, provide financial support for Division 31 representation to attend important

APA committees and task forces, and increase compensation to its Executive Director. I have enjoyed a successful and collaborative relationship with the very hands-on and engaged Division 31 Executive Committee, and would be privileged to continue serving as Division 31 Treasurer.

Div. 31 Student Representative Candidate Statement



**Christopher
Townsend,
PhD (in
progress)**

I am honored to submit my nomination for the APA Division 31 Student Representative position. As a doctoral student in Clinical Psychology at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), my academic and professional journey has been shaped by a deep commitment to service, leadership, and advocacy. My background includes prior service

as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician in the U.S. Air Force, as well as a Ph.D. in Industrial-Organizational Psychology. I have transitioned these experiences into a career dedicated to advancing psychology's role in serving diverse and high-performing populations.

Currently, I serve as a psychology extern at Malcolm Grow Medical Clinic, where I provide psychotherapy and engage in outreach to military communities. My previous externship at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence deepened my understanding of neuropsychology, particularly in working with military personnel with traumatic brain injury.

Leadership has been central to my career, from mentoring

classmates to serving as the APA Division 19 Student Chapter President at USUHS. I am eager to bring this leadership experience to Division 31 to advocate for student members and strengthen collaboration between students and division leadership.

Outside of my professional and academic pursuits, I enjoy traveling with my wife and attending musical theatre performances, which provide a great balance to the demands of clinical training and research.

If selected, I will work to amplify student voices, enhance professional development opportunities, and contribute to Division 31's mission of advancing state, provincial, and territorial psychological associations (SPTAs).

Visit the [Div. 31 web site](#)

for current important information and

informative blog posts.

Navigating Legislative Changes: A Guide for Students to Stay Informed and Protect Your Well-Being



Kymbriona Taylor, M.ED, Div 31 ECP and Student Committee Co-chair

In recent years, legislative changes have made headlines across the country, and many of these changes can feel deeply personal, especially for students. Whether it's related to education, health care, civil rights or other pressing issues, keeping up with new laws and policies can be both empowering and overwhelming. While staying informed is important, it's equally vital to prioritize your mental health. Here's how you can navigate these changes with balance and care.

Why Staying Informed Matters

Legislative decisions often impact key aspects of your life—from the cost of tuition to your rights as an individual. Being informed allows you to:

- Understand how policies might affect you or your community.
- Advocate for self and others.
- Make informed decisions, such as voting or participating in civic activities.

However, while staying informed is empowering, it can also become overwhelming, especially when updates feel constant and the news is distressing.

Signs You Might Be Overwhelmed

It's easy to fall into the trap of consuming too much news, which

can negatively impact your mental health. Here are some signs you may need to take a step back:

- Feeling anxious, hopeless, or angry after reading updates.
- Difficulty sleeping or concentrating because of constant worry.
- Compulsively checking for news updates or scrolling through social media.

Tips for Staying Informed Without Sacrificing Your Well-Being

1. Set Boundaries with News Consumption

- *Choose reliable sources:* Identify a few trusted outlets and limit your consumption to those. This helps avoid misinformation and sensationalism.
- *Schedule news check-ins:* Dedicate specific times during the day to catch up on updates, rather than scrolling endlessly.
- *Take breaks:* Give yourself permission to unplug from the news, especially if it's starting to feel overwhelming.

2. Focus on What You Can Control

- *Get involved:* Channel your energy into action by attending town halls, joining student organizations, or participating in peaceful demonstrations.
- *Advocate:* Write to your representatives or sign petitions to voice your concerns.

- *Support others:* If a legislative change affects your community, consider volunteering for organizations that are helping those impacted.

3. Protect Your Mental Health

- *Practice mindfulness:* Techniques such as deep breathing, meditation, or yoga can help ground you when you're feeling stressed.
- *Engage in hobbies:* Spend time on activities that bring you joy and take your mind off stress.
- *Seek support:* Talk to friends, family, or a mental health professional about how you're feeling. Many campus counseling centers also offer free or low-cost services.

4. Build Community

- *Connect with peers:* Join student groups or online forums to discuss legislative changes in a supportive space.
- *Share resources:* Help others stay informed by sharing educational materials, workshops, or advocacy opportunities.
- *Lean on allies:* Reach out to mentors, professors, or community leaders who can provide guidance and encouragement.
- *Collaborating with other*

Guide for students and others
Continued on page 7

2025 Division 31 Calendar of Meetings and Liaison Activities



<u>DATE</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
September 5	Integrated Care	Zoom
September 9	Rural Health Section	Zoom
September 11	Communication	Zoom
September 16	Diversity Committee	Zoom
September 18	Executive Comm.	Zoom
October 3	Integrated Care	Zoom
October 16	Executive Comm.	Zoom
November 7	Integrated Care	Zoom
November 13	Communication	Zoom
November 20	Executive Comm.	Zoom
December 5	Integrated Care	Zoom
December 9	Rural Health Section	Zoom
December 18	Executive Comm.	Zoom

DATE MEETING LOCATION

March 18	Diversity	Zoom
March 20	Executive Comm.	Zoom
April 4	Integrated Care	Zoom
April 17	Executive Comm.	Zoom
May 2	Integrated Care	Zoom
May 8	Communication	Zoom
May 15	Executive Comm.	Zoom
June 6	Integrated Care	Zoom
June 10	Rural Health Section	Zoom
June 17	Diversity Committee	Zoom
June 19	Executive Comm.	Zoom
July 4	Integrated Care	Zoom
July 10	Communication	Zoom
July 17	Executive Comm.	Zoom
August 1	Integrated Care	Zoom
August 5-6	APA Council	Denver, CO
August 7-9	APA Annual Conv.	Denver, CO
August 8?	Conv. Board Meeting	Denver, CO/ Zoom
	Div. Reception Awards	Denver, CO
August 21	Executive Comm.	Zoom

- Exec Conference Calls are held at 1 pm Eastern
- All Communication Calls are held at 1 pm Eastern
- All Integrated Care Calls are held at Noon Eastern
- All Diversity Calls are held at 7pm Eastern
- All Rural Health Calls are held at 7pm Eastern

Guide for students and others

Continued from page 6

organizations or groups: Working toward possible solutions with an open mind and respect for differences.

5. Celebrate Small Wins

- Legislative change is often slow, but progress does happen. Celebrate victories, no matter how small, to keep hope alive and inspire continued action.

Final Thoughts

As a student, your voice is powerful, and staying informed is one way to use it effectively. However, it's okay to take a step back when it becomes too much. By setting boundaries, focusing on what you can control, and prioritizing your mental health, you can navigate legislative changes while maintaining your well-being. Remember, you don't have to carry the weight of the world alone—lean on your community and take care of yourself along the way.

"Imagine There's No Heaven. It's Easy If You Try"



**By Pat
DeLeon,
PhD
former APA
President**

The Visionary NAM Culture of Health Initiative: In February, the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) Culture of Health, chaired by Antonia Villarruel, Dean of the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and a member of the Board of Regents at the Uniformed Services University (USU), convened a highly engaging presentation at the National Museum of the American Indian. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has been enthusiastically supporting this initiative for the past decade. Several of the prominent presenters included Jerome Adams USPHS Surgeon General during the first Trump Administration and NAM psychologist members Keawe Kaholokula, Chair of Native Hawaiian Health at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and Velma McBride Murry, Vanderbilt University. I definitely took notice when one of the speakers discussed the critical contributions that the national Medical-Legal Partnership program has been making to traditionally underserved families and their communities. In Hawaii, MLPC-HI, directed by Dina Shek and a project of the University of Hawaii's William S. Richardson School of Law, possesses a special child focus and has as its anchor

site the Kokua Kalihi Valley (KKV) Federally Qualified Health Center with its large Micronesian and other migrant/immigrant communities catchment area.

Peter Mikoski, USU Psychology Graduate student: "Attending the NAM's 'Pathways to Achieving Health for Everyone, Everywhere' was an inspiring experience that deepened my understanding of the critical role of community in health and research. The panelists featured diverse experts who shared powerful examples of community-driven initiatives that transformed health outcomes. The underlying message emphasized that community cannot simply be isolated or controlled for as a variable in research. Rather community is an integral part of our humanity necessary to have a life worth living. Ultimately, working towards promoting health for everyone, everywhere requires a commitment to valuing and including the role that community plays."

Interesting Times: In January, just prior to President Trump's inauguration, NAM President Victor Dzau reported: "As the new year begins.... I am inspired by the impressive progress and impact we've made together. It is with this momentum and unwavering commitment to the advancement of science, health, and medicine that we enter 2025, which will bring political changes and uncertainties, but also offer significant opportunities." A subsequent message in February: "The NAM and the National Academies are continuing to navigate a variety of issues related to recent U.S. policy developments.

Many of you have written to me to share your concerns about potential impacts on scientific research and vulnerable populations, among others. I hear you, understand your concerns, and thank you for your patience and support as we continue to address challenges, assess our legal obligations, and identify opportunities to demonstrate nonpartisan leadership and solutions at this time of uncertainty. In particular, I'd like to express that I share your concern over the announcement that the National Institutes of Health will significantly reduce its indirect cost recovery rate. This cut will be disruptive for science and essential administrative and operational infrastructure within universities and nonprofit institutions. Please be assured that my fellow presidents and I will do all that we can to support scientists and research organizations."

The RxP Movement: Just prior to the 2025 Practice and State and Provincial Leadership (PSLC) Conference in Washington, DC, Beth Rom-Rymer visited with the Division 31 Executive Committee and presented an update on the status of psychology's RxP maturation. After talking with her uncle, Beth decided to become a psychologist at the age of five. Understanding human behavior has always been her life-long dream. "Prescriptive authority is booming! Beyond the eight states and territories that have already enacted RxP legislation, several of which are expanding their original laws by removing artificial barriers

Imagine...It's easy if you try
Continued on page 9

Announcing the National Register's SPTA Advocacy Award

Our partners at the National Register are proud to announce the SPTA Advocacy Award to honor outstanding advocacy achievements by State/Provincial/Territorial Psychological Associations. Starting in 2025, we will present two awards annually, and each selected association will receive a \$5,000 prize.

Click the following link for more information. <https://www.nationalregister.org/spta-advocacy-award/>

As many of you know, SPTAs do incredible advocacy work, often with limited resources and staffing. The National Register looks forward to honoring and

supporting their efforts through this new award.

They would like to thank APA Division 31 (State, Provincial and Territorial Psychological Association Affairs) for helping conceptualize this award and for their participation in the SPTA Advocacy Award Committee.

Imagine...It's easy if you try

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such as restrictions on patient age, we have several countries who are enthusiastically building their RxP Movements on an international platform: Brazil, Canada, Jamaica, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, the Middle East, the UK, Singapore, and South Africa. Further, I am especially excited that after nearly two decades, Division 55 has finally been successful in establishing a Specialty ABPP Board in Clinical Psychopharmacology." Always a trail blazer, Beth was in the first female cohort admitted to Princeton University.

Giving Psychology Away:

Two of our colleagues have been exerting considerable energy over the past several years systematically exposing the public to psychology's scientific and clinical expertise. Former APA President Ron Levant: "After I retired from the University of Akron in 2018, I continued to practice my profession, as I wrote in my chapter for Rod Baker's edited book *Retirement Experiences of Psychologists*. During these six years post-retirement, I have focused on writing and teaching, as I really enjoy both. I brought

out my memoir, *The Problem with Men: Insights on Overcoming a Traumatic Childhood from a World-Renowned Psychologist*, which recently became #1 Amazon Best Seller in New Releases in Gender Studies. I found writing this memoir to be a challenging task, not only due to the difficulties in remembering events from my childhood, but also in being as honest as I possibly could. I fought my desire to paint myself in a favorable light, and to really tell the truth, warts and all. I have also done a bit of public education, in the form of writing OpEds for newspapers on various psychological topics, such as 'The masculine ideal of suppressing one's feelings has all kinds of awful repercussions,' which I co-wrote with my colleague Chris Kilmartin and published in *Salon*. Most recently, Judy Logue and I had an OpEd accepted by the *Akron Beacon Journal* focusing on Kamala Harris's election loss, titled 'Why can't a woman?' The teaching that I do these days is largely in the form of webinars for psychologists and other mental health professionals. The three webinars that I currently offer are: * Assessing and Treating

Emotionally Inexpressive Men; * The Tough Standard: A Primer on the Psychology of Men and Masculinities; and, * The Problem with Men: A Book Talk and Reading of Selections from My Memoir. I also have done many podcasts talking about psychology for the general public.

Catherine Sanderson is a Professor at my alma mater Amherst College who weekly crafts brief vignettes integrating psychological science within everyday human experiences. Three of her recent creations:

* The Surprising Downside of Having Too Much Free Time – Why feeling sort-of-busy is actually good for well-being.

* It's No Joke: Humor Can Save a Marriage – Why laughter is like medicine for relationships. And,

* Think Small to Achieve Big – Why setting short-term goals really pays off.

For those interested in regularly receiving her creative musings contact sandersonspeaking@substack.com. "I hope someday you'll join us. And the world will live as one" (John Lemon, *Imagine*). Aloha,

Div. 31 Honors Members During 2025 PLC in Washington



Diversity Leadership Program Participants gathered in Washington, D.C., during the APA's PLC Conference.



Above, Dr. Ray Folen recognized members of the Tennessee Psychological Association for their outstanding ECP initiative. [See video](#). Below, Dr. Elena Eisman received a Presidential Citation from Dr. shorter woman. [See video](#).



Dr. Nan Klein and other members of the Division 31 board of directors gathered live and electronically for the spring board meeting.

Dr. Erin Alexander, Chair of Committee of State Leaders (CSL), APA CSL 2025 State Leadership Award Dr. Julie Wolter.



Below, Div. 31 President Ray Folen presides over Division 31 activities during the APA PLC Conference in Washington, D.C.

Right top, Folen presented the Diversity Award to representatives of the Delaware Psychological Association. [See video.](#)

Right center, Dr. Nanci Klein is honored by Folen at the Outstanding SPTA Staff Member, representing the Utah Psychological Association. [See video.](#)

Right bottom, representatives of the Kentucky Psychological Association accept the award from Folen as the Outstanding State Society. [See video.](#)

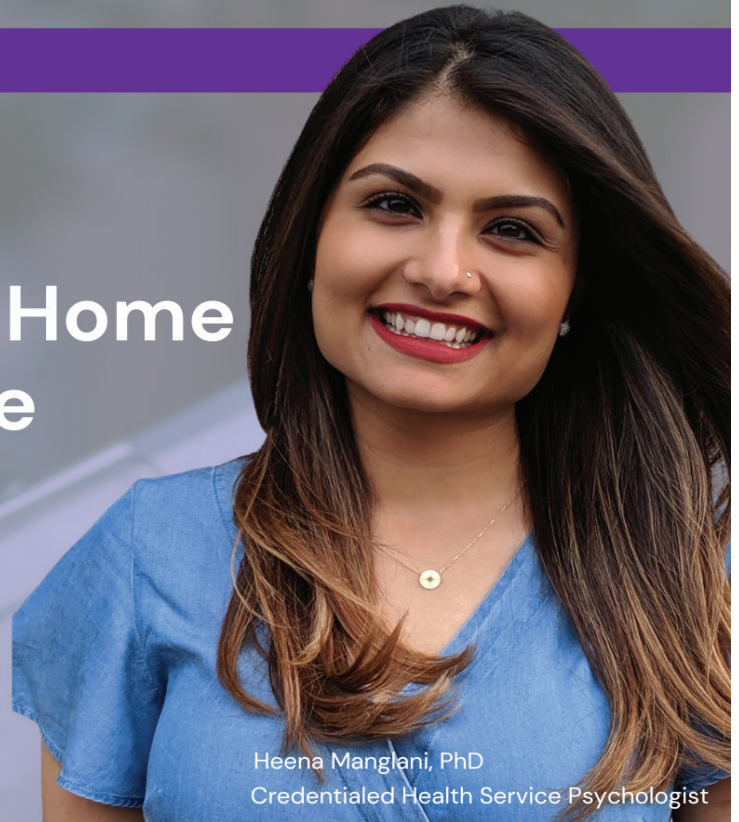




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Opportunities for impact

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small (with under 300 members and correspondingly small annual budgets).

How do we do it? We get by with the help of our friends. It is the intent of Division 31 to serve as the gathering place for SPTAs and organizations and groups that support them, such as the APA Council of State Leaders (CSL), the Council of Executives of State, Provincial and Territorial Psychological Associations (CESPPA), the APA Council SPTA Caucus, and others. It is through this collaboration and pooling of human talent and resources that the practice of psychology will continue to grow and thrive.

All indications are that 2025 may prove to be a challenging year for SPTAs. Profound national level changes in health care appear likely and much of the fallout will be experienced at the state level. SPTAs may find themselves primarily on the defense as changes to behavioral healthcare impact their state populations, particularly those coming from historically marginalized backgrounds.

We have already been hard at work. Division 31 recently pushed back against efforts to severely reduce SPTA representation on APA Council and we must be ready to do so again when the issue reemerges in the future. The APA initiative to license master's level psychologists is also one where the

profession must tread very carefully and consider any currently overlooked second and third order effects. The recent administrative changes in APA practice leadership have also been concerning to many and we need to ensure that SPTAs – and the practice of psychology – continue to have a major seat at the APA table.

Despite these challenges (or maybe as a result of them), Division 31 remains a very dynamic and exciting organization; it continues to represent SPTAs and the practice of psychology with significant impact. Many new and continuing initiatives are in the works.

Let's keep it going!

Mahalo,

Ray

The election of Division 31 leaders will
take place from Tuesday, April 15,
to Wednesday, May 14.

Be sure to VOTE!



APA Division 31 Committee Chairs

Executive Director

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Awards

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Communication

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Convention Program

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