



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

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

31

Fall 2025 • Volume 57 • Issue 3

Recognizing Those Doing Div. 31 Work



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

Aloha Division 31 Colleagues,

It's always a pleasure to update Division 31 members as to what the Division is doing in their behalf. Let me give you a quick overview of recent events.

We want to recognize members who have made a important contribution to the Division, their SPTA, or professional psychology.

At this year's APA Convention in Denver, Colorado, we had the

opportunity to recognize a number of outstanding psychologists at the Division 31 Social Hour and Awards Program:

- Dr. Chuck Hollister - Outstanding SPTA Psychologist
- Dr. Kamieka Gabriel - Outstanding SPTA EDI Leader
- Dr. Evelyn Burrell - Outstanding SPTA Early Career Psychologist Leader

Each one of our awardees has made very significant and lasting contributions to our Division, our profession and the communities they serve. We also recognized the first-ever recipients of the

Work of Div. 31

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Call for Officer Nominations:

Division 31 is seeking nominations for the following positions:

President-elect

Secretary

Member -at -Large

Nominations should include a statement of qualifications and curriculum vitae (CV). Please refer to Div. 31 Bylaws to learn more about these positions.

<https://www.apadivisions.org/division-31/about/bylaws>

We encourage those interested to submit their supporting materials by December 1, 2025, to

Officer Nomination Chair, Ray Folen, PhD, ABPP
at hpaexec@gmail.com.

Please Consider Applying to be An APA Fellow Through Division 31



**Bruce
Bobbitt,
PhD, LP
Fellowship
Committee
Chair**

This article is my second about becoming an APA Fellow since I became chair in 2024. My purpose is to provide a brief summary of the requirements and list key dates that need to be met by prospective applicants this Fall. Last Fall I wrote an extensive article that provided much detail about how to become an APA Fellow and also provided a history of the the Division 31 process. As the standards for APA Fellowship and the Division 31 Standards have not changed please refer to last [Fall's article](#) for the detail.

The Division 31 Fellows Committee (all APA Fellows) consists of the following members: Bruce L. Bobbitt, Ph.D., Chair, (Minnesota), Ken Bohm, Ph.D. (Missouri), Linda Knauss (Pennsylvania), and Paul Korte, Ph.D. (Missouri). Paul is our most recent Initial Fellow (2025) and will provide outstanding leadership having just completed the process. In addition, in January 2026 Ellen Williams, Ph.D. (Arizona) will join the committee. Ellen is just completing her term as Chair of the APA Fellows Committee and will add an unusual depth of experience to our efforts having overseen the entire APA process

for 2024-2025. Welcome to both Paul and Ellen.

APA distinguishes between Initial Fellows and Current Fellows. Initial Fellows refers to those APA members who are elected to Fellowship for the first time. Given the timing of this article, the focus will be on Initial Fellows. Working backwards, the final step in the process is a vote by the APA Council of Representatives (COR) that occurs at the August APA convention. Prior to that, the application must be approved by the APA Fellows Committee and the APA Board of Directors. In order to meet that deadline all material must be provided to APA by Tuesday, February 10, 2026. This packet is sent by the Division Fellowship Chair. In order to meet this deadline, Division 31 requires that all materials for the application be provided to me by Tuesday, December 16, 2025.

APA Requirements

There are six national criteria for Fellowship established by the APA. All six must be met. They are:

1. Doctoral degree based in part on a psychological dissertation
2. Prior status as a member for at least one year, and nomination by a division to which the member belongs
3. Active engagement in the advancement of psychology
4. Five years of acceptable postdoctoral experience
5. Evidence of unusual and outstanding contribution or

performance in the field of psychology

6. Fellow status requires that a person's work has had a national impact on the field of psychology beyond a local, state or regional level.

Above I outlined the really important parts of these criteria. The applicant must demonstrate not only unusual and outstanding contributions, but contribution that has national impact. This means something is improved in the field of psychology or profession as a result of the applications work. Simply listing offices held, papers presented and publications does not suffice. The work must be unusual, outstanding and have national impact.

Division 31 Requirements

In addition, the applicant must be nominated by a division. In the case of our division, this means that the successful applicant must meet the Fellowship Criteria established by Division 31. A Division 31 member must have made unusual and outstanding contributions in ONE or MORE of the following four areas (summarized):

1. Development of exemplary programs
2. Leadership in organized psychology
3. Publication or dissemination of information
4. National policy development or political action

Fellow process
Continued on page 15

Setting Trajectories for Success in Leadership



**Jess
Ruiz,
PhD**

This past spring, I had the privilege of serving as a Diversity Delegate at the 2025 Practice & SPTA Leadership Conference (PSLC) through APA's Diversity Leadership Program (DLP)—an experience that was illuminating, energizing, and transformative. From clarifying my leadership strengths to building a true community of peers, colleagues, and mentors, the DLP has reshaped my vision of the changemakers driving our field forward.

The program began with a concentrated leadership retreat held just before the PSLC conference. My cohort and I explored our individual

leadership styles and how these strengths can foster collaboration, communication, and creative problem-solving. The program's reflective space encouraged me to reexamine how I lead and to consider how to initiate change in ways that align deeply with my values.

A hallmark of the DLP is the community it fosters, bringing together peers and mentors dedicated to advocacy, diversity, and social justice. As an early career psychologist, I was inspired by the variety of ways colleagues are creating impact in their communities. Through these connections, I've learned from others' experiences and discovered new avenues for my own leadership growth. This network has continued to support me well beyond the conference. With the guidance of my mentor, past Division 31 president Dr. Mayra Ortiz, I have deepened my engagement in civic and legislative

initiatives within New Mexico and have begun exploring involvement with Division 31's diversity committee, where several of my DLP peers also serve.

The DLP far exceeds its mission of cultivating diverse leaders in psychology. By combining self-reflection, skill-building, and mentorship, it nurtures a resilient network of leaders prepared to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing professional landscape. Speaking with alumni underscored how the program shapes long-term leadership trajectories—and left me feeling not only inspired but equipped to keep pushing for meaningful change.

I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to participate in the DLP. I left the program recharged, confident, and ready to follow in the footsteps of the many current and past alumni who continue to advance our field with purpose and passion.

Call for Division 31 Award Nominations!

Nominations are invited for Division 31 Annual to be given at the 2026 Practice and State Leadership Conference.

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

Nominations and supporting materials should be sent to the Division 31 Awards Chair:
Ray Folen, PhD, ABPP at hpaexec@gmail.com by November 1, 2025.

"If You See Me Walking Down the Street"



**Pat
DeLeon,
PhD former
APA
President**

A Truly Outstanding Mentor:

Our annual APA conventions provide new knowledge, intellectual stimulation, and perhaps most importantly, the opportunity to network with long-time and new friends. Denver's 133rd gathering was attended by an estimated 9,000 colleagues. A major highlight, particularly for Laurie Pearlman and Jo Linder-Crow the nominators, was APA President Debra Kawahara presenting a special tribute to Dan Abrahamson. Just prior to the convention, the US Public Health Service celebrated its 227th birthday, dedicated to its mission to "Protect, Promote and Advance the Health and Safety of the Nation." For psychology, Dan has exemplified this calling for decades.

Debra Kawahara: "The American Psychological Association is honored to present the 2025 Raymond D. Fowler Award for Outstanding Contributions to APA to Dr. Dan Abrahamson, whose extraordinary career has contributed greatly to the Association, advanced professional psychology, and improved the lives of countless practitioners and the public. With more than three decades of exemplary service spanning

governance, staff leadership, teaching, and advocacy, Dr. Abrahamson's legacy is woven into the fabric of APA's progress and impact.

"Across his distinguished tenure, Dr. Abrahamson demonstrated unflagging dedication to advancing APA's mission. As Federal Advocacy Coordinator and Director of Professional Affairs for the Connecticut Psychological Association, Dr. Abrahamson was a powerful voice for mental health parity and health care reform, working tirelessly at the state and national levels. In 2001, he was the only psychologist to present at a historic Congressional hearing on Patient Protections for Mental Health Care, standing alongside leading U.S. Senators and representing the interests of psychologists and those they serve. Throughout this period, he mentored graduate students as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Connecticut, inspiring them to take on leadership roles within APA and the profession.

"A hallmark of Dr. Abrahamson's APA contributions has been his skill in consensus-building. As chair of the Board of Professional Affairs and Committee of State Leaders, he led pivotal governance bodies through complex and sometimes divisive initiatives, including the development of the APA Guidelines for Psychotherapy with Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Clients and the Criteria for Evaluating

Treatment Guidelines – each resulting in a national APA policy change. His diplomacy, vision, and steadfast commitment enabled him to bridge divides and facilitate productive collaboration among diverse constituent groups.

"Dr. Abrahamson's vision for a more inclusive and vibrant professional community is evident in his leadership in establishing the Diversity Delegate Initiative at the State Leadership Conference, which has funded over 500 delegates from underrepresented backgrounds in the last 25 years. Through his stewardship, the conference transformed into a cornerstone for advocacy, professional development, and fostering community among state, provincial, and territorial psychological associations.

"During his tenure as APA staff, Dr. Abrahamson's leadership was marked by sound business judgment coupled with a deep commitment to service. As the architect of significant financial efficiencies, he renegotiated contracts and streamlined operations, saving the association millions of dollars while preserving high levels of service for state associations – even through challenging budget periods. His strong support for State, Provincial, and Territorial psychological associations included his steadfast support for critical grants that continue to ensure the sustainability and reach of psychological services in communities nationwide, in U.S.

If you see me...

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SPTA Updates



Jennifer Kelly, PhD, ABPP
former APA President

Alaska

The Alaska Psychological Association will be holding its Annual Meeting and Awards on September 20, 2025, at the University of Alaska. The hybrid meeting will provide an update of membership and finances, legislative priorities, APA Council Rep report, presenting new and returning board members, and the goals of the new incoming board president. The five awards that will be presented are the Gold Pan Award, awarded to the outgoing board President for their leadership and dedication to the association, and the Baker-Lane Award, awarded to a member for their meritorious service to the association. The Distinguished Service Award given to a Psychologist, mental health provider or educator who has provided distinguished service for their community or in Alaska, the Cultural Humanitarian Award awarded to a group or person doing outstanding work to advance human welfare in their community or in the state, and the Distinguished Rural Provider Award awarded to a mental health provider in recognition for extraordinary dedication as a rural behavioral health provider.

Arkansas

The Arkansas Psychological Association (ArPA) has continued to thrive with new initiatives and exciting programming. We hosted a successful Spring Conference featuring The Trust's Sequence XIV: Ethics and Risk Management of Navigating New Frontiers in Psychological Practice, presented by Leisl Bryant, PhD, ABPP. We continue to maximize the benefits of our directorate model, particularly through our partnership with Mentally Balanced Media (MBM) (a contracting agency that helps with technology and marketing) and through legislative advocacy. Internally, we are working diligently to strengthen efficiency around our membership database and financial strategy, planning, and oversight. Looking ahead, we are preparing for our Fall Conference, which will be our first two-day in-person conference since the pandemic. This event will highlight suicide prevention, feature student research, offer a hybrid format with both in-person and virtual attendance, have sessions open to the community, and provide special registration opportunities for members of other mental health associations at the ArPA member rate. We plan to record this event and repurpose content for our social media platforms to expand reach and impact. To further enhance member engagement, we are expanding membership benefits by offering CE opportunities every other month through our Lunch and Learn series, as well as Peer Consultation meetings every other month focused on clinical issues.

Additionally, we recently launched a new monthly series, MindShift: Psychology Beyond the Therapy Room, which highlights the role of psychologists as academicians, leaders, researchers, and consultants. Finally, the ArPA Diversity Committee recently finalized and published ArPA's Response to Recent Policy Changes, which is now posted on our website, reflecting our ongoing commitment to advocacy and inclusion.

Florida

The Florida Psychological Association (FPA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Danna Fowble, IOM, as its new Executive Director. Fowble brings 38 years of experience in association and nonprofit leadership. She is the owner of Solutions 501, LLC, and currently serves as Executive Director of the Oklahoma Psychological Association (OPA) and CEO of the Oklahoma Burglar and Fire Alarm Association (OKBFAA). She holds national leadership roles with the American Psychological Association (APA) and its Advocacy Coordinating Committee (ACC) as well as the Council of Executives of State, Provincial and Territorial Psychology Associations (CESPPA) Division 31 Liaison. Fowble has earned recognition for her expertise in advocacy, membership growth, and organizational development from APA, the Oklahoma Society of Association Executives (OSAE), and other professional organizations.

SPTA updates
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Div. 31 Mentorship Program Announced, Seeking Mentors



Mayra Zoe Ortiz, PsyD
Div. 31 Past President

Division 31, as the home for all SPTAs, is excited to invite you to our Leadership Mentorship Program!

We are looking for mentors who can inspire, guide, and provide their expertise to our next generation of leaders. Our mentorship program is designed to support early career psychologists and BIPOC psychologists on their

path to leadership positions within their SPTAs and APA governance.

Here's what we are looking for:

- Experience with political advocacy.
- Implementation of initiatives concerning jurisdiction-relevant issues.
- Skills on how to ascend to leadership positions.

To be eligible for mentorship you must:

- a) be a member of your state, province, or territorial psychological association;
- b) be a member of Division 31 in good standing; and
- c) have experience in leadership roles.

If you are not a member of Division 31, this is a perfect opportunity to join us and learn about all we can offer.

For more information, please [email me](#), [Ray Folen](#) (Division 31 President), [Anne Klee](#) (Division 31 President-elect) or [Connie Paul](#) (Division 31 Executive Director).

Warm regards,

Mayra Zoe Ortiz, PsyD

Division 31- Immediate Past President

Ray Folen, PhD, ABPP

Division 31- President

Anne Klee, PhD

Division 31- President-elect

Connie Paul, PhD

Division 31 – Executive Director



State, Provincial & Territorial Affairs Division 31

Mentorship Program Mentor Application Form

Name: _____ Degree: _____

SPTA Affiliation: _____

Email Address: _____

Preferred Phone: _____

Current & Past Leadership Positions: _____

Areas in which you are comfortable mentoring:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Adults | ☐ LGBTQIA+ |
| ☐ Applied Psychology | ☐ Marriage & Family Counseling |
| ☐ Child & Adolescents | ☐ Organizational Strategies |
| ☐ Chronic Illness | ☐ Political Advocacy |
| ☐ Disability | ☐ Practice Issues |
| ☐ EDI | ☐ Prescriptive Authority (Rx P) |
| ☐ Geriatric | ☐ Rural Communities |
| ☐ Integrated Care | ☐ Substance Abuse |
| ☐ Other _____ | |

Please provide us with more information about your area of expertise:

Research interest and/or additional comments:

How many mentees are you willing to mentor? _____

Please complete this form and return it at your earliest convenience to:

Mayra Zoe Ortiz, PsyD, at zoe07470@gmail.com



LEARNING THAT SUPPORTS YOUR SPTA

LIVE WEBINAR

Responsible Integration of AI in Psychological Practice



Adam Lockwood, PhD, NCSP



Dan Florell, PhD, NCSP

FRIDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2025 | 12:00 - 3:15 PM ET

The National Register & CESPPA are partnering to bring high-quality webinars designed to financially support State, Provincial, and Territorial Psychological Associations (SPTAs).

100% of the proceeds are returned to your association.

Div. 31 Leaders Recognized During APA Convention



Top row left, Kameika Gabriel was recognized as Outstanding SPTA EDI Leader; top center, Chuck Hollister was honored as Outstanding SPTA Psychologist; and top right, Evelyn Burrell was recognized as Outstanding SPTA ECP. Second row, left, APA President Debra Kawahara presented outgoing Div. 31 President Mayra Zoe Ortiz with a Presidential Citation; above center shows leaders and participants of the Diversity Leadership Program; and above right, incoming Div. 31 President Ray Bolen presented Ortiz with



her gavel plaque. At left, Paul Korte and Emily Selby-Nelson discussed "Building Psychologist Resilience in Rural Health Practice." At right, Mayra Zoe Ortiz and Roxanne Ramirez shared their perspectives on "Latinos in the United States: Myths, Facts and Reports on Their Military Experience."



Advocacy Work Highlighted During APA Convention



Heiser Award recipients, past and present, are shown above. 2025 Heiser Awards for advocacy within an SPTA were presented by Elena Eisman, Ray Folen and Debra Kawahara to (clockwise from top right) Michele McKinnie, Tisha Deen, Amy Beck, Beth Jerskey and London Breedlove.



Below, the inaugural National Register awards for advocacy were presented by APA Division 31 President Ray Bolen, at left in each photo, and Andrew Boucher of the National Register, at right in each photo. Accepting for the inaugural honorees were Nanci Klein of the Utah Psychological Association, at left, and London Breedlove of the Washington Psychological Association, at right.



Highlights of Div. 31 Activities at 2025 APA Convention



Div. 31 Thanks the Sponsors for 2025 Convention Events



On behalf of the Division 31 Board of Directors, we would like to thank the sponsors who made our social hour and other events possible at the 2025 APA Convention.



Our Platinum Sponsors were The Trust and the National Register. The Mississippi Psychological Association was our Bronze Sponsor.

Representatives of The Trust and Div. 31 leadership are shown at top left, the National Register's Andrew Bouchet and Div. 31 members are shown at left and Bouchet is shown bottom left.



Div. 31 Welcomes Korte as New Fellow



2023 Division 31 President Paul Korte, left, is welcomed as a Division 31 Fellow by Bruce Bobbitt, PhD, Division 31's Fellowship Chair.

Congratulations, Paul!



2025 Division 31 Calendar of Meetings and Liaison Activities



<u>DATE</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
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

Editor's Note:

- 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

Visit the [Division 31 web site](#)
to see these blogs
for a variety of communities:

[Diversity Task Force](#)

[Early Career Psychologists](#)

[Ethics Education](#)

[Health Care Reform](#)

[Student Task Force](#)

Fellow process

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Please note that I emphasized that you must meet one or more of the above four areas, though the more the better. The Division 31 Criteria can be found at: <http://www.apadivisions.org/division-31/membership/fellows/index.aspx>

In order to be considered, you need to get a few things done by December 16th. First, you need to fill out the APA online tool - called the APA Fellows Portal. This portal is NOW open and if you are interested you can begin the process at any time. In addition to providing documentation mentioned above, the tool will ask for your educational history, a current curriculum vitae, and a self-statement. Even though the tool does not require the self-statement, Division 31 does require that you write a statement that connects the dots regarding accomplishments and impact. This also assists me in writing a summary that is turned in with the entire corpus of information. You also must provide three endorsers who are current APA Fellows, who can speak to how your work meets the criteria. Please include at least two endorsers who are Fellows of Division 31, and one other APA Fellow who can speak to your work. Historically most applicants have endorsers who are members of Division 31. We will assist you in identifying Division 31 Fellows.

Here is the link to the APA Portal: <http://www.apa.org/members/your-membership/fellows/apply.aspx>

As you enter the APA Fellows website you will find a variety of

tools to assist you and your endorsers.

It is important that you begin the process as early as possible. We know that completing the requirements of the application takes time and many people are not sure that they meet the standards. If you are interested in applying please reach out directly to me at my_email AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. We can then set up a phone call to discuss everything. Past applicants have found this conversation to be really helpful - especially discussion the APA national criteria.

Please send me a direct email message about your questions, and

thinking, as you approach this process: b-bobbitt@comcast.net.

The process for Current Fellows is different. In short, once you are an APA Fellow, you simply need to express your interest in adding Division 31 to your Fellowship portfolio by sending me an email indicating your interest. At that point, I will outline to you the process for accomplishing this. The bottom line is that you do NOT need to reproduce the Initial Fellowship process. That only needs to be done once. Direct any inquiries about becoming a Current Fellow to me at my email or call me on my mobile phone.

Advertise with Division 31

Focus on 31 invites you to consider advertising in our newsletter. Published three times annually, we reach decision makers throughout the profession. For details, email the Editor.

Classified Ads:

- \$10 per line, minimum three lines.
- Display Ads: Ads must be in digital format, 300 dpi, .eps, .tif or .pdf.
- 8x10: \$400;
- 3x5 Vertical: \$150;
- 3x2: \$50.

For additional information, contact Managing Editor Diane Slaughter, APR, Fellow PRSA, at info@homesteadcomms.com.

Work of Div. 31

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National Register of Health Service Psychologists Advocacy Awards - the Utah Psychological Association and the Washington State Psychological Association - for their ability to bring about lasting systemic change via legislative and regulatory advocacy. Dr. Paul Korte, our 2023 Division 31 President, was congratulated for achieving APA Fellow status and it was our very great pleasure to recognize Past-President Dr. Mayra Ortiz for her tremendous work and lasting contributions to the Division. During her three-year tenure as President-Elect, President and now Past-President, Mayra has devoted all of her time and energy – seemingly 24/7, as her husband Seth will affirm - in support of Division 31 and our SPTAs. At the convention, Mayra was also awarded a Presidential Citation from APA President Debra Kawahara.

My deepest appreciation and thanks go to those recognized at this wonderful convention event. Mahalo (thank you) as well to our Social Hour sponsors - the National Register, The Trust and the Mississippi Psychological Association – and to our convention co-chairs: Dr. Christopher Townsend, Doctoral candidate Cheyenne Quilter and Dr. Pat DeLeon.

The Karl Heiser Award is the only APA award recognizing state level advocacy. As a result of the steadfast determination of Dr. Elena Eisman – a former Division 31 president and someone known to just about everyone in

APA - the Heiser Award continues to honor those indefatigable psychologists who have devoted boundless time and energy to advocacy. Six psychologists received the award this year: Drs. Amy Beck (Missouri), London Breedlove (Washington State), Tisha Deen (Arkansas), Natalie Gaughf (Mississippi), Beth Jerskey (Massachusetts) and Michele McKinnie (Montana). Each has contributed tremendously to their state psychological associations and their communities.

We seek to create collaborative discussion with important figures on key issues in APA so that they better understand the needs and the contributions of our Division, the SPTAs, and our psychologist members.

At the convention, the Division 31 Board met with a number of APA leaders and program staff, to include APA President Dr. Arthur Evans, staff from APA Practice (Dr. Lynn Bufka and Dr. Robin McLeod), APA Health Policy (Dr. Stephen Gillaspay) and APA Advocacy (Dr. Katherine McGuire and Alix Ginsberg). We also met with staff from the National Register and ASPPB. The separate meetings with each of the groups were extremely collaborative and productive; I encourage Division 31 members who would like more information about these discussions to contact me.

We identify and take stands on the key issues impacting the Division, the SPTAs, and our psychologist members.

The Division 31 Board has identified 17 different initiatives and deliverables for 2025, to

include establishing a ‘rapid response’ team with liaisons from each SPTA, increasing funds for SPTA operational and legislative grants, increasing Division 31’s role in PSLC planning, scheduling regular combined meetings with SPTA and practice-focused stakeholder groups, clarification on the APA C3 vs C6 rules and roles regarding SPTA advocacy support, and further developing responsive linkages with APA programs and staff, to name a few. I am pleased to report that, to date, Division 31 has made demonstrable progress on most of the initiatives on this ambitious list.

More specifically, we are taking a deep look at APA’s push to create licensure for master’s educated providers and want to know that the doctoral degree is being protected.

At the APA Council of Representatives meeting held in Denver immediately prior to the convention, the Council approved - by a large majority - operational principles intended to provide needed parameters that will inform current and future actions related to inclusion of master’s professionals in the practice of health service psychology (HSP). Absent from the Council discussion was any serious discussion on how to best protect and promote the doctoral degree in the midst of what is a fundamental change in how psychological services are promoted and delivered at a time when doctoral educated psychologists are struggling with huge student loans, poor

Work of Div. 31

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reimbursement, and insurance companies that are often impossible to work with.

After 60 years of doctoral level training serving as the psychology practice standard, the move by APA to endorse the practice equivalency of master's level psychologists represents one of the most significant changes to the practice of psychology since the Boulder Conference in 1947. It has potentially far-reaching implications for the doctoral level practitioner, the practice of psychology and the future of doctoral-level training programs:

- Given that the Master's in Health Service Psychology (M-HSP) practitioners' scope-of-practice will encompass most or all of doctoral level psychology practice, will doctoral-level training become unnecessary or irrelevant to the student wishing to become a psychologist? Given the enormous cost of doctoral level graduate school education, we worry that doctoral-level training programs may face significant reductions in student applicants, and the number of doctoral level training programs may drastically decline.
- State legislatures tend to make few distinctions between psychologists and other mental health providers. Will the creation of M-HSP licensure add to the current push in many states to consolidate behavioral health professions into single 'omnibus' board, resulting in the end of most psychology licensing boards in the country?
- Will insurance companies continue to pay doctoral educated psychologists at a higher rate than social workers, marriage and family therapists and licensed counselors? We are concerned that in places where a rate distinction currently exists, psychologists may find their reimbursement rates lowered.
- While efforts are being made to create clear distinctions between doctoral and M-HSP practitioners, will these distinctions be respected by legislators in the face of strong lobbying efforts from master's practitioners? Attempts to make scope-of-practice distinctions between master's and doctoral level psychologists failed dramatically in North Carolina recently as a result of fierce opposition from master's level psychologists and other mental health professions.
- As M-HSP practitioners achieve a scope of practice equivalent to doctoral level providers, isn't it likely that the underlying rationale for the carefully crafted APA doctoral training accreditation standards may become irrelevant?
- As programs in nursing, pharmacology, marriage and family therapy, social work, etc., grow and expand

their scope-of-practice by establishing doctoral-level practitioners, is psychology moving in the opposite direction?

Given the above, as well as other unexpected second- and third-order effects that may result from M-HSP practitioner licensure, will doctoral level practice need to be redefined and reimagined? As previously noted, attempts to reserve specialized services (e.g., neuropsychology, forensic psychology) for the doctoral level psychologist are unlikely to hold up against a lobbying onslaught from master's providers or an unsympathetic state legislature. Will doctoral level psychologists need to move out of direct clinical care and into leadership positions and how will they receive the additional training and skills required? If so, will the doctoral level psychologist need training on how to create and benefit from these new job opportunities?

Assuming that students are willing to choose the M-HSP over competing social work, MFT, nursing or counseling degrees, this APA initiative may help reduce the huge shortfall of behavioral health professionals and improve access to care in the communities we serve. The question remains, though: what is the role of the doctoral level psychologist – if any – in this new definition of the practice of psychology?

Warmest regards from Hawai'i,
Ray

*Raymond A. Folen, PhD, ABPP
President*

SPTA updates

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“Danna’s proven leadership in association management and her commitment to advancing psychology in Florida will help us continue to strengthen our community, ex-

pand opportunities for our members, and advocate for the profession we all care deeply about,” said Kristi Van Sickle, Psy.D., President of the Florida Psychological Association. “I am honored to step into this role,” said Fowble. “My focus

will be on membership retention, growth, and engagement—ensuring FPA continues to thrive as a strong advocate and professional home for psychologists across Florida.”

SPTA updates

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If you see me...

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territories, and in Canada.

“Recognized for his integrity, mentorship, and solution-oriented approach, Dr. Abrahamson is admired by colleagues as a role model and consensus builder who puts the needs of psychologists and the public first. His leadership has been pivotal in developing clinical practice guidelines, advocating for parity, and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the profession.

“In recognition of a career defined by visionary leadership, enduring impact, and unwavering dedication to our values and mission, APA is proud to present Dr. Dan Abrahamson with the 2025 Raymond D. Fowler Award for Outstanding Contributions to APA.”

The Prescriptive Authority (RxP) Journey: Steve and Tony Ragusea -- “What’s Happening with RxP in Pennsylvania? The Pennsylvania Psychological Association (PPA) continues to actively pursue our RxP bill, HB 1000, which would permit psychologists to prescribe psychotropic medication in the Commonwealth. A meeting was recently held with representatives of the Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association

(RCPA) regarding HB 1000 and those individuals will be bringing the bill to their committees for review. The organization’s staff are very supportive, and they are planning to recommend that their organization establish an official position from the Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association supporting the bill. RCPA is seen as important to RxP in Pennsylvania because they represent the State Association for Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Centers and the professionals who work in those facilities.

“Meanwhile, PPA and APA are meeting the members of the legislature. After a recent such meeting PPA adjusted the bill again and had correspondence with our primary sponsor’s staff, as well as the staff of the House Professional Licensure Committee. The rewritten bill has been submitted for introduction this session and hopefully, we will again have the bill introduced very soon.

“On July 16th, Pennsylvania Senator Gene Yaw held a public hearing on Rural Healthcare Provider Policies focusing on examples from other jurisdictions. It was generally recognized that there is a growing shortage of health care providers, particularly in rural Pennsylvania. His

hearing had three foci, including Post-Doctoral Training and Prescriptive Authority for Psychologists. Representing psychology via Zoom were APA’s Deborah Baker; Jo Velasquez, New Mexico Prescribing Psychologist; and Ryan Ernst, Prescribing Psychologist in Iowa and Idaho and Director of MSCP Training at Drake University. Also discussed at this hearing were the Expanding Utilization of Nurse Practitioners and Leveraging International Medical Graduates in Pennsylvania. Overall the response from the legislators was warm, inquisitive, and receptive. We expect to have a very productive meeting with Senator Yaw in late September.

“Of course, PPA recently sent out an action alert to the organization’s membership asking them to reach out to their Representatives, requesting that they co-sponsor HB 1000. The more the merrier! It’s only a question of time before Pennsylvania psychologists can safely and effectively prescribe, as our colleagues have been doing in other states and the federal system for almost 30 years!” “Now you really gotta go, so walk on by” (Dionne Warwick, Walk On By). Aloha,
*Pat DeLeon, former APA President
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SPTA updates

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Georgia

With the retirement of Dr. Gayle Spears as the GPA Executive Director, Mr. Kevin Holder assumed the position in mid-June 2025. Mr. Holder has extensive experience in leadership and organization management. He has previously served as the Executive Director for the Council of Probate Court Judges of Georgia, and the Media Education Foundation of Georgia. The search committee was impressed by Mr. Holder's extensive experience, passion for proactive planning, and enthusiasm for making connections with both members and other important stakeholders. The Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee is preparing for a busy pre-election year Legislative Session by reviewing holdover Bills of relevance to the practice of psychology in Georgia and preparing in advance with an Advocacy training session for members. GPA 2026 Annual Meeting theme is "Creating Connection and Embracing Change Within Psychology" and will be held in person April 24-26 in Atlanta. There will be several format changes, and it is also the first in-person annual meeting for GPA in two years.

New York

The New York State Psychological Association (NYSPA) is moving forward with significant progress on multiple fronts. Legislatively, NYSPA's priority

PSYPACT bill passed the state Senate in its first session and is now headed to the Assembly, supported by an APA legislative grant; the association also successfully secured improvements to limited practice permits for doctoral students through collaboration with the NYS Education Department. Educational programming is expanding, with further growth expected as CE21 implementation is completed this fall. Operationally, NYSPA approved the first major update to its membership structure in decades, including a dues adjustment that positions the organization for long-term sustainability. In the past month, the failure of some aging infrastructure necessitated a rapid migration to new systems, including the launch of a modern community platform several weeks ahead of schedule. Looking ahead, NYSPA is preparing a "Reintroducing NYSPA to NY" campaign in 2026 featuring strengthened communications, a refreshed website, and new initiatives designed to engage members and strengthen the profession statewide.

South Carolina

The SC Psychological Association's Annual Conference will be in Hilton Head on March 13th and 14th, 2026 at the Sonesta Resort. Dr. Leisl Bryant from The Trust will present "Ethics and Risk Management of Navigating New Frontiers in Psychological Practice". Other speakers include Katherine B. McGuire, the American Psychological Association's first chief

advocacy officer, and Dr. Vaile Wright, the Senior Director of the Office of Health Care Innovation in the Practice Directorate at the American Psychological Association. Ms. McGuire will present on current legislative issues affecting behavioral health. Dr. Wright will address AI topics and leveraging technology and data in clinical practice. Also, the APA Services Inc. (APASI) has awarded SCPA a \$10,000 grant to help defray costs to defend against behavioral health legislation affecting mental health and psychologists in South Carolina.

Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Psychological Association has just implemented a new position for a Student Representative on the Board of Directors. We are currently in our election period and look forward to adding this important voice to our leadership team in 2026. The annual six-part Summer CE Series just wrapped up and efforts now turn towards the Annual Meeting on October 17th. WPA has contracted with a DEI consultant who will be working with our leaders over the coming months to evaluate how leaders are experiencing the organization in the areas of fairness, equity, morale, inclusivity, and social justice, establish processes to assist with interpersonal dynamics, shared decision-making and determine how the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion can be integrated into all arms and activities of WPA.



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