



AMERICAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION

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

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# Focus on 31

Spring 2026 • Volume 58 • Issue 1

## Div. 31 Advancing Programming, Advocacy and Leadership Initiatives



**By Anne  
Klee, PhD  
Division 31  
President**

Over the past several months, Division 31 has been actively advancing programming, advocacy, and leadership initiatives that support our state, provincial, and territorial psychological associations (SPTAs). I am deeply grateful to our Executive Director, Dr. Connie Paul, and the Division 31 Executive Committee members who are working so diligently on behalf of our community to develop programming and services that support our state, provincial, and territorial psychological associations and strengthen our division. Their leadership has helped ensure that Division 31 continues to serve as a vital hub for collaboration, advocacy, and professional development.

**Division 31's Town Halls**—currently free and open to the entire psychology community—address pressing issues and response strategies

related to pending legislation and practice concerns affecting our states, provinces, and territories. These sessions explore broader implications for the field while offering advocacy training to support effective state-level engagement and SPTA leadership. We have hosted several excellent town halls this year and have many more planned.

On January 8, we hosted **“APA's Draft Model License Act: Implications for the Future of Professional Psychology Practice in the States and Territories.”** Drs. Peter Oppenheimer and Alex Siegel previewed the draft APA Model Licensing Act and the changes being proposed. The goal was to help SPTA leaders understand the context of these changes and respond with comments that reflect the concerns and interests of their members.

On February 17, 2026, we held a **Rapid Response Forum on State Legislation on AI: Emerging Restrictions and Implications for Mental Health Providers**, led by Deborah Baker, Dr. Leanna

**Advancing Initiatives**  
Continued on page 18

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## Div. 31 President-Elect Candidate Statement Shared



**Danna  
Fowble, IOM**

It is my honor to run for the Presidency of Division 31. I have dedicated much of my career to representing and promoting psychologists' ability to succeed in practice and leadership. My 38-year career in nonprofit management has centered on strategic alignment, advocacy and leadership development, and sustained systems of effectiveness.

I am a registered lobbyist and Executive Director for Oklahoma

and Florida Psychological Associations; I have been directly involved in advancing and helping secure passage of multiple pieces of legislation supporting professional practice and patient access to care. Daily, I work alongside psychologists on the issues that matter most - advocacy, regulatory challenges, reimbursement, organizational growth, and the systems that allow them to serve their communities effectively.

I have the honor of being the only individual to have been twice appointed to APA's Advocacy Coordinating Committee (ACC). The ACC advises the APA Advocacy Office and Board of Directors on advocacy priorities and strategy. Working with the Council of Executive Directors of

State, Provincial, and Territorial Psychological Associations (CESPPA), I have helped develop and host CESPPA's national CE program, raising tens of thousands of dollars for our SPTAs. I have been a strong supporter of APA's SPTA operational and legislative grant program.

I believe Division 31 stands at an important moment: We need to amplify SPTA voices within APA. We need to make sure that the needs of psychologists receive the support they need. My contribution is the organizational strategy that ensures this profession that so many of you have invested in is supported, coordinated, and positioned for maximum impact.

I would appreciate your vote.

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## Div. 31 President-Elect Candidate Statement Shared



**Diana L.  
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. She 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.

She 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.

Diana 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.

Diana 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.

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## Div. 31 Member-at-Large Candidate Statement



**Shannon  
Goecke-  
Watson,  
PsyD, LP**

Hello, and thank you for the consideration of your vote for the Div. 31 Member-at-Large position. Briefly, I earned my Masters and Doctorate degrees in Counseling Psychology from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. I now own SGW Psychological Services in Apple Valley, MN, and exclusively treat domestic and sexual violence survivors using evidence-based interventions in group and individual psychotherapy. Although I am still considered an

early career psychologist, I have been very active in the Minnesota Psychological Association (MPA) and in the American Psychological Association (APA). Regarding my service to MPA, I was honored to serve as the Member-at-large on the association's governing council in 2022 and 2023. I also have been an active member of the legislative committee since 2018. Recently, I've been working with the association's lobbyist to amend statewide medical debt laws that greatly impact psychologists. As for my service to APA, I am the current Minnesota representative on the Council of Representatives. On Council, I am the chair of the rural health caucus, the secretary of the women's caucus, and the co-elections and nominations chair for the Association of

Practicing Psychologists. Outside of Council, I am the current co-chair of the Division 56 (Trauma) Practice Committee and am an active member of the Division 42 (Independent Practice) Membership Committee.

As evidenced by the myriad roles I hold, I understand the importance of advocacy and participation within the profession of psychology. I also greatly respect the connections between states, territories, and provinces, Division 31, and APA. Fostering these connections are vital to the success, not just of SPTAs, but also to APA and Division 31. It is with the intention to expand upon these vital connections that I would formally like to ask for your vote for the Div. 31 Member-at-large position. Thank you.

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## Div. 31 Member-at-Large Candidate Statement



**Julie B.  
Wolter,  
PsyD**

I am honored to be nominated for the Division 31 Member-at-Large position. My three years serving in this role have been both meaningful and enjoyable, and they have flown by. Advocacy is a central professional passion of mine—particularly state-level advocacy through my roles as Director of Professional Affairs for NHPA and Federal Advocacy

Coordinator for RIPA—and Division 31 serves as a critical hub for coordinating efforts among APA, CESPPA, and SPTA leadership.

I also volunteer with APA's Office of Healthcare Finance CPT Advisory Group, participating in the AMA CPT and RUC processes. I have greatly valued the opportunity to help coordinate Division 31's work with Stephen Gillaspay's group on reimbursement and policy issues affecting commercial, Medicaid, and Medicare payers, including providing input on the Medicaid Toolkit and assisting with the town hall led by Dr. Gillaspay on state-level reimbursement advocacy.

It has been an honor to serve as a voting member of a Division dedicated to advancing and advocating for the needs of SPTAs. I would welcome the opportunity to continue contributing to Division 31's efforts to support SPTAs through coordinated advocacy and policy work, including helping ensure the Division remains attentive to emerging state-level policy developments—such as recent legislation addressing artificial intelligence and professional practice—while advancing work on reimbursement, regulatory frameworks, and the evolving healthcare landscape. I ask for your vote.

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## Div. 31 Secretary Candidate Statement



**Jeanne M. Slattery, PhD**

I am honored to be nominated to serve as Secretary of Division 31 during a period of significant change in our profession. Psychology is facing challenges related to licensure, educational standards, technological change, civil discourse, and equitable access to care. These challenges require collaboration across our state, provincial, and territorial associations, and we can address

them most effectively by working together.

I bring leadership experience from several levels of organized psychology. I currently serve as Secretary of Division 31 (2024–2026), am a member of APA's Council of Representatives (2025–2027), and served as President of the Pennsylvania Psychological Association (2021–2024). During my presidency, we addressed difficult organizational issues and developed a nine-point plan for diversity, equity, and inclusion that contributed to our association receiving Division 31's Diversity Award. Our professional organizations must continue working to remain relevant to all members while advocating

for prescription privileges, psychology's role in integrative care, and thoughtful responses to technological change.

My professional work spans teaching, clinical practice, ethics education, and scholarship. I teach at Pennsylvania Western University, maintain a small clinical practice, received the Pennsylvania Psychological Association's Ethics Educator Award in 2020, and have published three books on trauma and clinical practice.

If elected, I will bring a broad perspective, commitment to collaboration, and strong work ethic to serve Division 31 and the members and communities our associations represent.

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## Div. 31 Secretary Candidate Statement



**Susan C. McGroarty, PhD, ABPP**

I would be honored to bring my energy, commitment, and perspective to the role of Secretary for APA Division 31.

In my dual roles as New Jersey Psychological Association Director of Professional Affairs and Federal Advocacy Coordinator, I serve a diverse membership helping psychologists navigate the daily regulatory, ethical, and reimbursement challenges

of delivering psychological services. On both the state and federal level, I advocate on behalf of psychologists. I am energized by problem-solving and the opportunity to support psychologists in meaningful, practical ways.

Division 31 serves, in many respects, as the voice of practicing psychologists within APA. Especially during this period of restructuring and change, the division plays a vital role in representing the perspectives of psychologists on the front lines of the mental health crisis and in advancing informed, effective advocacy on their behalf.

A colleague recently described me as exceptionally smart, driven,

and deeply passionate about advocating for psychologists. My understanding of the profession's challenges, and the need for thoughtful and creative solutions, has been shaped by my work as an academician, a private practice clinician, a health psychologist, as well as by my own lived experience. I would be thrilled to bring my expertise, passion, and optimism to service as Division 31 Secretary.

Clear, accurate, and relationship-centered communication is often the foundation for meaningful progress. As Secretary, I would be committed to fostering that kind of communication in support of the division's mission and its members.

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# Sparking Inclusive Leadership: My PAA & 2026 APA DLP Journey



**Sandra  
Dixon,  
R.Psych.,  
PhD**

My selection as the Psychologists' Association of Alberta (PAA) nominee for the 2026 American Psychological Association (APA) Diversity Leadership Program (DLP) felt like a profound affirmation of my journey. As a psychologist who identifies as Black Canadian and a PAA Board Director since 2020, I have dedicated myself to advancing psychology as a pillar in uplifting Albertans' well-being. My leadership at PAA spans School Psychology Committee Liaison (2020-2021), Early Career Psychologists Representative (2021-2023), and Chair of the PAA Board Culture Committee (2022-2025), throughout which I have championed inclusive decision-making, evidence-based practice, and holistic wellness for professionals. From my tenure as a University of Lethbridge (UofL) EDI Scholar (2021-2022) where I earned presidential recognition, to my position as UofL EDI Accelerator member, Lethbridge inclusivity consultant, and twice-nominated PAA Diversity Delegate at the 2022 and 2024 APA Practice Leadership Conferences, equity, diversity, inclusion, accessibility, anti-oppression, and Indigeneity (EDIA-O-i) is my lived praxis. With

a focus on immigrant health, anti-Black racism, racialized academic women, and spiritually and culturally sensitive care, I believe that building access to psychology elevates us all.

The 2026 APA DLP unveiled leadership as an evolving identity journey, prompting me to explore my present self and future potential through continuous growth. Leadership appeared vibrant, international, multifaceted, and fluid. Further, it was never impartial, as others perceive my leadership presence through their experience with others in my position, and the ways I walk in the world. Additionally, this training reframed imposter syndrome for me—not as personal weakness, but as internalized systemic racism eroding confidence over time. Authentic leadership flows naturally from these discursive shifts in understanding, pushing me decisively from hope to action even amid burnout risks as a Black woman within the ivory towers. True belonging builds on these shifts by leveraging my privilege strategically through practical tools: R3 advocacy (reach, readiness, relevance), connection, storytelling, and shared decision-making. Moving forward, these interconnected DLP strategies will drive my equitable psychological practice, bold mentorship, and amplification of marginalized voices from periphery to core.

## **Acknowledgments**

I am deeply grateful for the camaraderie and solidarity of the

2026 DLP cohort, as well as the steadfast support of DLP staff, including Amanda Weber, Director of Leadership Development Programs, and Dr. Todd Jenkins, Chief Diversity Officer. I also wish to thank DLP faculty Jennifer Kelly, PhD; Sandra Shullman, PhD; Sarah Burgamy, PsyD; Dolores Cimini, PhD; Cathy McDaniels Wilson, PhD; and Mayra Ortiz, PsyD. Their transformative insights, alongside the SPTA Leaders Conference, inspired these reflections. I remain profoundly thankful for their collective wisdom guiding my leadership growth.

## **Author's Biography & Photo**

Dixon is an Associate Professor at the University of Lethbridge and a registered psychologist in Alberta. She is also a Certified Professional Life Coach. Her research focuses on culturally sensitive counselling practices among immigrants, cultural identity reconstruction and ethno-cultural diversity issues through an Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility, Anti-oppression and Indigeneity (EDIA-O-i) lens. She currently serves on the boards of the Psychologists' Association of Alberta, the Alberta Network of Immigrant Women (ANIW) and Lethbridge Family Services. She has extensive experience in immigration research, community engagement, social justice, and advocacy, and brings knowledge and enthusiasm for social inclusion and faith-based frameworks to her work with counsellors-in-training and other helping professionals.

# 2026 Division 31 Calendar of Meetings and Liaison Activities



|              |                         |      |
|--------------|-------------------------|------|
| September 15 | Diversity Committee     | Zoom |
| September 17 | Exec Conference Call    | Zoom |
| October 2    | Integrated Care         | Zoom |
| October 15   | Exec Conference Call    | Zoom |
| October 20   | Diversity Committee     | Zoom |
| November 6   | Integrated Care         | Zoom |
| November 12  | Communication Committee | Zoom |
| November 17  | Diversity Committee     | Zoom |
| November 19  | Exec Conference Call    | Zoom |
| December 4   | Integrated Care         | Zoom |
| December 8   | Rural Health Section    | Zoom |
| December 15  | Diversity Committee     | Zoom |
| December 17  | Exec Conference Call    | Zoom |

- All Exec Conference Calls are held at 7:30 pm Eastern time zone
- All Communication Committee Calls are held at 1:00 pm Eastern time zone
- All Integrated Care Calls are held at Noon Eastern time zone
- All Diversity Committee Calls are held at 7:00 pm Eastern time zone
- All Rural Health Section Calls are held at 7:00 pm Eastern time zone

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>MEETING</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|

|              |                           |      |
|--------------|---------------------------|------|
| April 3      | Integrated Care           | Zoom |
| April 16     | Exec Conference Call      | Zoom |
| April 21     | Diversity Committee       | Zoom |
| May 1        | Integrated Care           | Zoom |
| May 14       | Communication Committee   | Zoom |
| May 19       | Diversity Committee       | Zoom |
| May 21       | Exec Conference Call      | Zoom |
| June 5       | Integrated Care           | Zoom |
| June 9       | Rural Health Section      | Zoom |
| June 16      | Diversity Committee       | Zoom |
| June 18      | Exec Conference Call      | Zoom |
| July 3       | Integrated Care           | Zoom |
| July 9       | Communication Committee   | Zoom |
| July 16      | Exec Conference Call      | Zoom |
| July 21      | Diversity Committee       | Zoom |
| August 7     | Integrated Care           | Zoom |
| August 4-5   | APA Council               | DC   |
| August 6 -8  | APA Annual Convention     | DC   |
| August 7?    | Convention Board Meeting  | DC   |
|              |                           | Zoom |
| August 7?    | Division Reception Awards | DC   |
| August 18    | Diversity Committee       | Zoom |
| August 20    | Exec Conference Call      | Zoom |
| September 4  | Integrated Care           | Zoom |
| September 8  | Rural Health Section      | Zoom |
| September 10 | Communication Committee   | Zoom |

## Advertise with Us

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**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.

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# What's New with SPTAs Across the Country



**Jennifer Kelly, PhD, ABPP**  
**former APA President**

## Alabama

The Alabama Psychological Association enjoyed an excellent Mid-Winter Meeting at the end of January, with visits to the state Capitol and talks on effective strategies for advocacy. Members also voted for a change in membership structure to fund a lobbyist who can consistently advocate for aPA priorities with lawmakers. This past year aPA has also joined as a cosigner on an amicus brief to the US Supreme Court in *Hamm v. Smith* (No. 24-872). The case presents a critical question about how courts should consider multiple IQ test scores when assessing intellectual disability in capital cases under *Atkins v. Virginia*. The case arises directly out of Alabama, making aPA's participation particularly meaningful. The brief argues that courts should consider multiple IQ test scores using established scientific methods, not simple averaging, and emphasizes that intellectual disability diagnosis requires a comprehensive clinical assessment of all relevant data. This aligns with the scientific consensus that accurate diagnosis requires assessment of intellectual functioning, adaptive functioning, and developmental onset through clinical judgment. aPA is looking

forward to our annual convention at Orange Beach in August 2026. With the theme of Navigating New Depths, this convention will focus on elevating psychology for both professionals and patients.

## Arizona

The Arizona Psychological Association is stepping into the year with strong momentum and a clear focus on connection, visibility, and long-term impact. Members and colleagues are encouraged to explore the wide range of topics in our upcoming Continuing Education events: <https://azpa.org/Events>. Planning is underway for our Annual Convention, taking place October 23–25 at the beautiful We-Ko-Pa Resort in Fort McDowell, AZ. Current strategic priorities include expanding social media and branding efforts to elevate our voice in the community, fostering a culture grounded in community, inclusion, and transparency, and strengthening long-term impact through collaborative partnerships and thoughtful legislative strategy that supports both practitioners and the communities they serve.

## British Columbia

Over the past several months, the British Columbia Psychological Association has been deeply engaged in advocacy as significant regulatory change approaches with the April 1, 2026 implementation of the Health Professions and Occupations Act, which introduces greater oversight of regulated health professions. We are actively advocating with

our College and the provincial government to ensure that the new framework appropriately reflects the unique ethical, clinical, and confidentiality considerations of psychological practice, while safeguarding both the public and the profession. In parallel, we are in ongoing discussions with the provincial government to expand public coverage and access to psychological services, emphasizing the essential role psychologists play in prevention, early intervention, and system sustainability. We have also recently launched a new podcast, *Inside Your Mind*, featuring our members in thoughtful conversations about the practice and profession of psychology, while offering accessible mental health insights and evidence-based tips to the public.

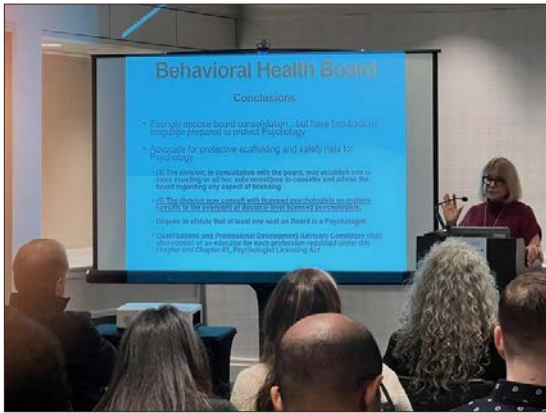
## Florida

Florida is transforming in many ways...with a new year brings new elected leaders as well as a new Executive Director who has been at the helm for four months. Membership revenue is the driving resource for FPA, and the focus is on enhancing and redefining benefits. Psychologists in Florida go through license renewal every other year, so 2026 and May 31st is the deadline for those license renewals. FPA offers the required mandatory CE's, so learning is also a major focus for our members and those who rely on FPA for these CE's. With the physical office closure finalized (December 2025),

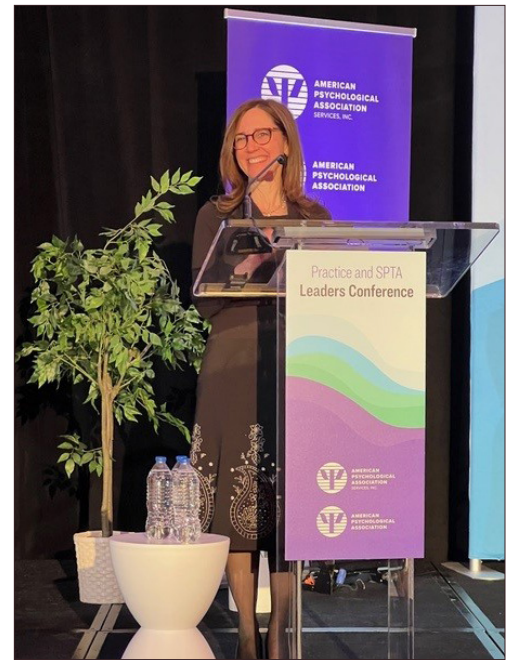
**SPTA update**

Continued on page 17

# Photo Montage from PLC and Winter Meeting



*Division 31 Treasurer Dr. Nanci Klein, DPA Utah Psychological Association, gave an update on the Behavioral Health Board.*



*Division 31 President Dr. Anne Klee, right, presided over the Division 31 winter meeting.*



*A discussion of the "Developing Leaders in Psychology" program (DLP) included, from left, Acting Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Todd Jenkins, DLP Dean and APA Past President Dr. Jennifer Kelly, Division 31 Member at Large Dr. Diana Prescott, and 2026 DLP Cohort graduate Dr. Kyla Molina.*



*Gathering to honor Div. 31 President Dr. Ray Folen at the end of his term were, from left, former Div. 31 President Dr. Paul Korte, Folen, Div. 31 President Dr. Anne Klee, Div. 31 President-Elect Dr. Peter Oppenheimer and Div. 31 Past President Mayra Ortiz.*

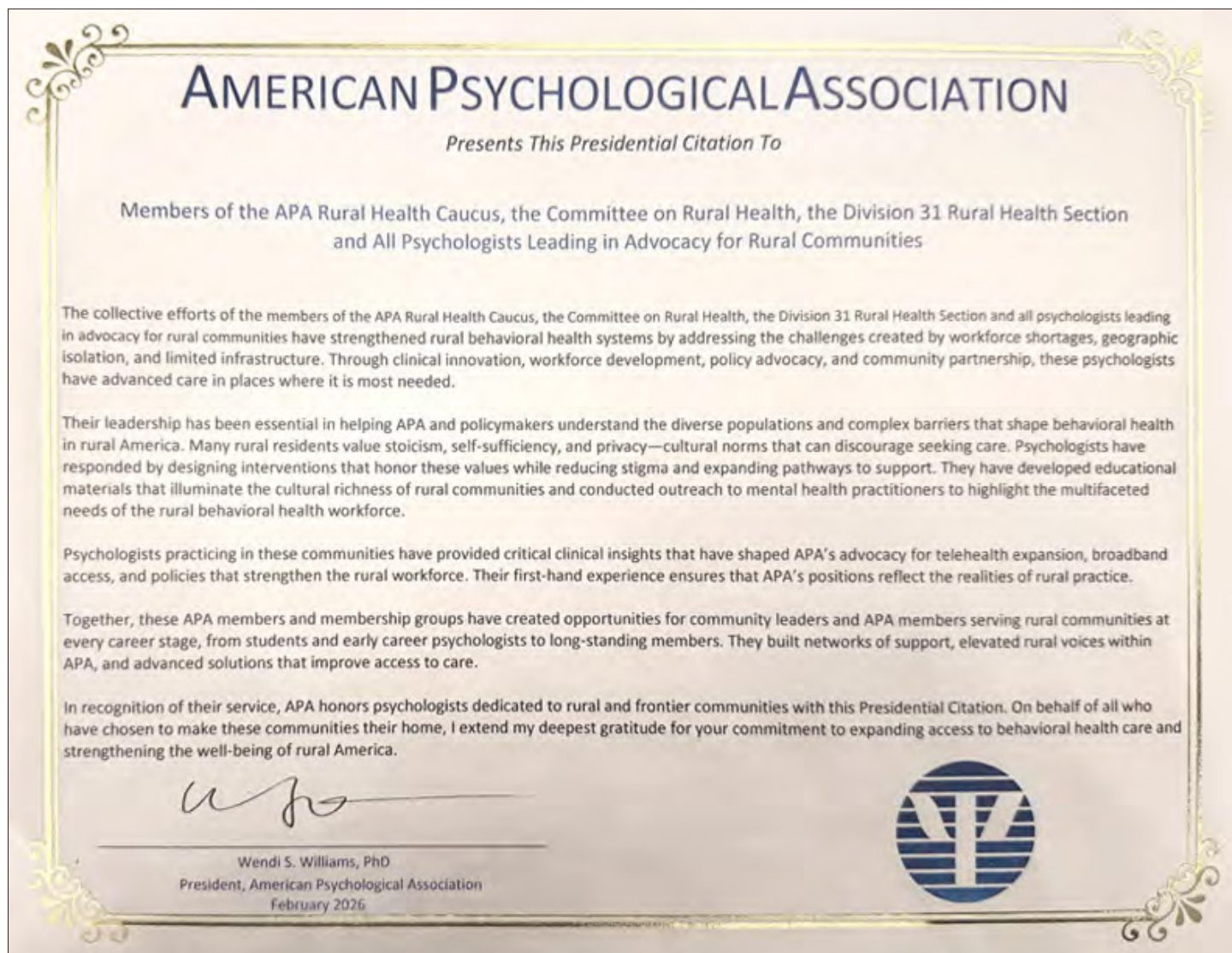


*Another Division 31 presentation involved, from left, Div. 31 President Dr. Anne Klee, Dr. Jim Broyles of the Ohio Psychological Association, Dr. Elise Oehring of the Tennessee Psychological Association and Dr. Kristina Pecora, MPP, of the Illinois Psychological Association.*

## APA Honors Div. 31 Rural Health Section and Others



*Division 31's Rural Health Section, along with the APA Committee on Rural Health and Rural Health Caucus, were awarded an APA presidential citation at the Council of Representatives meeting in February. Accepting the award were Dr. Shannon Goeke-Watson of Minnesota and Div. 31's representative Dr. Chuck Hollister.*



## Div. 31 Honors Several of Its Own in February

*Division 31 President Dr. Anne Klee presented an award to members of the Iowa Psychology Association to honor them as the outstanding SPTA of the year.*



*APA President Dr. Wendi Williams presented a Presidential Citation to Alan Nessman, JD.*

*Danna Fowble received accolades as Outstanding SPTA Staff for her work as Executive Director of the Oklahoma Psychological Association.*



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## Congratulations to Division 31 2025 Award Recipients



**By Anne  
Klee, PhD  
Division 31  
President**

### **Ms. Danna Christie Fowble -- Outstanding Achievement by a Psychological Association Staff Member Award**

For more than 38 years, Ms. Fowble has exemplified excellence in organizational and association management. As the founder of Solutions 501 and Executive Director of both the Oklahoma and Florida Psychological Associations, she has strengthened governance, advanced advocacy, stabilized organizations, and elevated member engagement with unmatched skill and integrity. Her leadership in advocacy is especially remarkable. Nominated by her peers to serve on the APA Advocacy Coordinating Committee and as the Division 31 CESPPA representative, Ms. Fowble has played a central role in shaping national policy priorities. Her strategic direction helped secure an APA Presidential Citation for OPA in 2019, reflecting her deep understanding of legislative processes and her exceptional ability to build relationships with policymakers. Those who work with Ms. Fowble often say she knows legislative affairs better than anyone in the room—and they are usually right. Beyond advocacy, she is an inspirational mentor

and culture builder. She develops strong boards, empowers emerging leaders, and creates organizations where volunteers and professionals thrive. Her “Road to Roots” initiative, which brings OPA leadership to rural communities, reflects her deep commitment to inclusion and connection. Under her guidance, OPA membership has grown by 57 percent in just five years. She modernized systems, enhanced communications, redesigned conferences, and introduced data-driven practices that strengthened both efficiency and engagement. Above all, Ms. Fowble represents the very best of association leadership—integrity, strategic insight, tireless advocacy, and genuine care for psychology. Congratulations!

### **Iowa Psychological Association -- Outstanding State Provincial and Territorial Psychological Association Award**

Division 31 is proud to recognize an association whose leadership, courage, and perseverance exemplify the very best of state psychological advocacy. Our State Psychological Associations work tirelessly to support psychologists and protect the integrity of our profession. But in 2024 and 2025, on top of everything else it does for its members, the Iowa Psychological Association was called to respond to an extraordinary challenge—one that threatened the security of psychological testing and the ethical foundations of our work. In early 2024, legislation and court

action in Iowa sought to compel the disclosure of raw test data and assessment materials in legal proceedings. These efforts put test security, professional ethics, and public protection at risk. IPA stepped forward immediately. When asked to file an amicus brief before the Iowa Supreme Court—on a tight timeline and with significant financial risk—they mobilized immediately. Their leadership secured legal expertise, raised funds, engaged national partners, and coordinated members across the state. They invested nearly daily hours in research, consultation, and advocacy, ensuring that the court fully understood the scientific, ethical, and legal stakes involved. They also built partnerships—working with APA, collaborating with Pearson, and organizing a highly effective moot court that strengthened the case. On February 14, 2025, their efforts were rewarded. The Iowa Supreme Court affirmed that test materials and data are protected under state law. But the impact did not stop there. Their work helped catalyze the adoption of APA’s first formal policy on test security. Through vision, persistence, and collaboration, IPA demonstrated what is possible when an association leads with purpose. For protecting our science, our ethics, and the public we serve, it is our great honor to present the Outstanding State Provincial and Territorial Psychological Association Award to the Iowa Psychological Association. Congratulations!

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# Call for Div. 31 Award Nominations

Please nominate a deserving State, Provincial or Territorial Psychological Association (SPTA) and/or SPTA staff member for a Division 31 Award to be presented at the APA Convention in August.

## **Outstanding SPTA Psychologist Award**

This award honors a psychologist whose distinguished contributions may include demonstrating outstanding leadership in an SPTA.

## **Committee on Early Career Psychologists (CECP) Initiative Award**

This award rewards an SPTA for implementing exemplary activities or initiatives that engage and sustain early career psychologists within roles involving advocacy, leadership or the practice of psychology.

## **Outstanding SPTA Early Career Psychologist Leader**

This award honors an early career psychologist whose distinguished contributions may include demonstrating outstanding leadership in an SPTA.

## **SPTA Diversity Award**

This award recognizes an SPTA for innovation, accomplishment, and ongoing activities related to diversity in membership, governance and leadership, and programming.

## **Outstanding SPTA Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Leader**

This award honors a psychologist whose distinguished contributions may include demonstrating outstanding leadership in an SPTA in areas of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

Please visit our website for more details:

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

The deadline for nominations is **May 30, 2026**. Please send your nomination(s) to [hpaexec@gmail.com](mailto:hpaexec@gmail.com). Thank you for supporting the work of our SPTAs!

# Member Spotlight: Dr. Kamieka O. S. Gabriel

## Psychologist • Leader • Advocate

Dr. Kamieka O. S. Gabriel's career reflects a deep commitment to psychology, leadership, and advocacy. In an interview with Dr. Marvella Bowman, she shared the experiences that shaped her professional journey and the passions that continue to guide her work.

### Kamieka's Journey in Psychology Advocacy

Kamieka earned her PhD in Counseling Psychology from the University of Georgia and later completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Emory University School of Medicine. During her training, she worked with a range of populations, including families, children, and adolescents, and conducted research on domestic violence. These formative experiences helped shape her professional direction and eventually led her into private practice. While she enjoyed working with children, she now primarily works with adults.

Alongside her clinical work, Kamieka developed a strong interest in advocacy within the profession. During her postdoctoral fellowship, mentors played a key role in introducing her to SPTAs. She became actively involved with the Georgia Psychological Association's Legal and Legislative Committee, contributing to efforts supporting prescription privileges for psychologists. Although the legislation ultimately did not pass, Kamieka described the experience

as invaluable for understanding how policy change unfolds.

She also reflected on attending the State Leadership Conference (now known as the Practice and State Leadership Conference) where psychologists from across the country come together to discuss policy, leadership, and advocacy. Through these experiences, Kamieka has gained firsthand insight into both the opportunities and challenges of advocating for psychology within today's evolving political landscape.

### A Passion for Mental Health

At the heart of Kamieka's career is a deep passion for mental health and supporting others in their journey toward well-being. One of the most rewarding aspects of her work is witnessing individuals seek therapy and take meaningful steps toward healing.

For Kamieka, the therapeutic process itself is powerful. She finds hope in seeing people commit to personal growth and in knowing that psychology can play a meaningful role in helping individuals feel supported and empowered. Kamieka shared, "Every time I see people wanting to do the work, to reduce trauma, stigma, and harm—wanting to make the world a better place—that gives me hope."

### Words to Her Younger Self and to Early Career Psychologists

Reflecting on what she would say to her younger self, Kamieka said, "Wow! You actually do it. What you set out to do—you go



and do it!" She emphasizes the importance of staying focused on one's chosen path. Rather than spreading energy across too many interests, she encourages early-career professionals to remain grounded in their goals and invest their efforts where they can make the greatest impact.

### Leadership and Service

In addition to her clinical and advocacy work, Kamieka has contributed extensively to leadership within psychology organizations.

Within Division 31, she has served as Diversity Committee Chair, Convention Program Chair, and most recently as Liaison to the Committee of Women in Psychology. Her leadership also extends to the Georgia Psychological Association (GPA), where she served as Secretary, helped rebuild the Georgia Psychological Foundation (GPF), and later became president of both GPF and GPA.

Kamieka's broader professional service includes serving as a member of the Committee of State

### Member Spotlight

Continued on page 18

# Report on the February 2026 Hybrid Council Meeting



**Chuck Hollister, PhD  
Council of Reps  
Chair,  
Caucus of STP Reps**

Here are a few of the highlights and results of what occurred in the February 2026 hybrid Council of Representatives meeting.

## **Congratulations to Division 31 Rural Health Section, Recipients of a Presidential Award.**

Division 31 Rural Health Section received, along with the Council's Rural Health Caucus, and the Committee of Rural Health, "and all psychologists leading in advocacy for rural communities," a Presidential Award from APA President Wendi Williams "for strengthening rural behavioral health systems by addressing the challenges created by workforce shortages, geographic isolation, and limited infrastructure." One of the primary leaders in advancing rural health concerns in Council has been Dr. Shannon Goecke, a Division 31 member and Council's Rural Health Caucus chair. She was a driving force in writing and passing a Council business item entitled "Expanding Access to Mental Healthcare in Rural Communities." And a special shout out to Dr. Paul Korte, who in his Division 31 Presidential year, helped start the Rural Health Section, and to Dr. Emily Selby-Nelson, current chair of our rural

committee. Dr. Selby-Nelson is a former Presidential award winner for her rural health work.

## **Potential Presidential Candidates Introduced**

Council invites candidates who have announced an interest in running for APA President to give a brief talk on their interest in running for President at Council.

Speaking at Council were:

- Dr. Candice Hargons
- Dr. Graham Danzer
- Dr. Chuck Hollister
- Dr. Margaret Kovera

(Yes, I am one of the potential candidates, but this is a Council report.)

## **The Council Meeting**

As your Council representative, I typically try to share a bit of "insider" information about the events at Council so that you can have a sense of what the experience of Council was like. Was it cordial or combative? Did Council members find the meeting productive and important? This year that is more difficult as many of the items were discussed in Executive Session. Council members are prohibited from sharing what was said or occurred in those meetings.

As many of you know, APA is under some pressure due to claims of antisemitism. There is currently a Congressional investigation into the matter and articles about it in the national press. APA President Wendi Williams was a strong voice in asserting that APA and psychology are "inclusive and welcoming to all (and that) APA has no tolerance for antisemitism or hate against individuals or

groups in any form." Here is a link to APA's "official summary."

Items not reviewed in Executive Session can be discussed. The following items passed with strong support, limited debate, and little or no wordsmithing.

- Standards of Accreditation for Programs in Health Service Psychology
- Policies for APA Approval of Sponsors of Continuing Education for Psychologists
- Integrating Psychological Science into Natural Disaster Response
- Expanding Access to Mental Healthcare in Rural Communities
- Global Perspectives in Psychology
- Promoting Comprehensive Sexual Health Education
- Revised Resolution on Palliative Care
- Update on Executive Leadership. Council voted 129-15 (with two abstentions) to receive a report by March 1, 2026, to assist Council in advising on the executive leadership direction of the association.

Items that were discussed in Executive Session included:

- 2026 Resolution on Antisemitism (Passed 127-37)
- Proposed APA Ethnic Psychological Association Affiliation with the Association of Jewish Psychologists (Deferred to Council's August 2026 meeting. Vote was 137-17).

**Council of Reps. report**  
Continued on page 16

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# “Hey Jude, don’t make it bad. Take a sad song and make it better.”



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

The 2026 Practice and SPTA Leaders Conference: The annual Practice (SPTA) Conference in Washington, D.C. has always been one of the highlights of my professional year. This year 250+ colleagues attended, including APA President Wendi Williams, APA CEO and Executive Vice President Arthur Evans, and Katherine McGuire Chief Advocacy Officer. Hawaii Psychological Association and Division 31 Diversity Committee Chair Roxanne Ramirez reflects: “It offered space to exchange ideas, strengthen relationships, and engage thoughtfully with the evolving priorities and challenges shaping our field.... Perhaps most importantly, PSLC invited us to reflect on our own professional sustainability. Psychologists are trained to focus on others, yet this space encouraged us to center our leadership development, succession planning, and collective future. PSLC remains a place to help shape where psychology is headed, and to consider how each of us can contribute. Each year, it sends us home more connected, more intentional, and more ready to engage actively in our local SPTAs.”

Enthusiastic rural proponent Diana Prescott, along with former

APA President Jennifer Kelly, Oklahoma Psychological Association Kyla Molina, and APA’s Todd Jenkins intriguingly addressed “Building Resilient Practice Networks.” Diana: “Looking back, I really believe SLC lifted me up. There were connection points for people like me from small and rural states. So many invited me to assume various leadership positions, and I am so grateful. As a psychologist from a farming background, it has been helpful to find so many rural-related efforts at APA which provide a comfortable APA home. Maine is often regarded as a state with little diversity. Although that is true comparatively, Maine does host an amazing amount of diversity that may not be readily apparent. For example, there is a large native population indigenous to the state. It is not unusual to encounter French-speaking Mainers with Canadian roots; immigrants from Haiti, Mexico, and Europe come to work in the food, fishing, and tourism industries.

“I think our SPTAs could improve their ability to help develop resilient leaders by considering where our psychologists in the state are working. We tend to attract those working in practice settings. CE is often geared to meet the needs of the practice community. However, we could provide leadership opportunities specifically for those psychologists who are teaching, conducting research, in tenure tracks, and serving in administrative roles. It is up to SPTAs to reach out to all and offer

support and leadership opportunities, adjusting to the needs of these specific communities. As a part of the Committee on Women (CWP) in Psychology Network, I scheduled a breakfast meeting with our Maine women members and found they felt isolated. We decided to start regional meetings of the women in psychology in three larger communities in Maine. The Bangor group is still meeting, occasionally virtually. It has been one important source of support for women practicing in Maine.

“Dual roles are often encountered by the rural psychologists which are not always bad and can sometimes enhance the therapeutic relationship. However, it is important to have colleagues with whom these issues can be discussed (e.g., a consultation group). Finally, I believe a successful state of equity and inclusion within SPTAs means that there are psychologists included in leadership roles from all walks of life, ages, and stages of career development, who are not necessarily friends, and who bring many varied perspectives to the table.”

Lynn Bufka, Executive Lead Psychologist, Practice, projected the overall conference vision and tone, focusing upon the larger national perspective. “Over 60 million Americans have a mental health condition but only 20% receive any mental health care, which sometimes means just getting a prescription from a primary care provider, leaving an increasing

**Hey Jude**

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# Inviting Input and Engagement from Students and ECPs



**Christopher  
Townsend,  
PhD  
Div. 31  
Student Rep**

Hello everyone,

My name is Chris Townsend, and I currently serve as the Student Representative for APA Division 31. I'm a fourth-year doctoral student in Clinical Psychology at

the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and an active-duty officer in the United States Air Force. Before beginning my clinical training, I completed a PhD in Industrial–Organizational Psychology and spent several years serving as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technician. Those experiences shaped my interest in understanding how high-performing individuals and teams function under pressure, and how clinical psychology can support resilience, recovery, and long-term well-being.

As the Student Representative

for Division 31, my goal is to help ensure that student voices are represented and that trainees feel connected to the division. I'm especially interested in hearing ideas about how Division 31 can better support students through mentorship, networking opportunities, professional development resources, or collaborative projects.

If you're a student member or ECP I'd love to hear from you! Please feel free to reach out with ideas, questions, or ways we can strengthen student engagement within Division 31.

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## Council of Reps. report

Continued from page 14

- Reaffirming APA's Commitment to Human Rights and Free Speech (Passed 146-5, 2 abstentions)

### **Efforts to Make Council More Effective: Division 31 had a significant impact**

For the third time a special table talk, hosted by the Board of Directors, Council Leadership Team, and the Caucus Chairs, was held to discuss what support Council members need to be more effective. I was chosen to represent the Caucus Chairs and was involved in the organization and what will be the analysis of the results. This will be the third time I have been asked to do this. Since

I represent Division 31, it is a nice contribution from our Division.

For those not familiar with Council's operations, Council members are asked to read nearly 1,000 pages of documentation before each meeting, to be familiar with APA's and Council's many complicated legal and administrative processes, and to have some sort of understanding about parliamentary procedure in order to adequately participate. This is in many ways an impossible task. Many of the issues addressed in Council trigger strong emotions.

As a result of the last set of table talks Council members now have a new digital dashboard to improve efficiency that some have called "amazing." It is

clearly a substantial upgrade to Council's Dropbox. Both I and Kansas Psychological Association representative, Jason Malousek, along with Council's Caucus Chairs, were very involved in promoting this.

Many thanks to APA President Dr. Wendi Williams, Dr. Arthur Evans, Katherine McGuire, Chief of Advocacy, Deanne Ottaviano, APA General Counsel, Council Leadership Team Chair, Dr. Rhonda Allen, the Council Leadership Team, the Caucus Chairs, APA's Board of Directors, Amber Roopan, Deputy Chief, Governance and Elected and Appointed Leadership, and the rest of the APA staff for hosting a well-organized event.

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## **SPTA update**

Continued from page 7

FPA staff rolled up their sleeves and have tamed working remotely quite well, something that comes second nature for Danna Fowble and her association management team, who have worked remotely for more than 15 years. As a big state, we had two FAC's and our ED representing ACC on Capitol Hill last week. Florida's legislative session ends March 13th, and as a final advocacy push, FPA will be hosting in-district meetings from Feb. 26 – March 12, 2026. Then we will gear up for redistricting discussions during an April Special Session, followed by the big election cycle in August.

## **Iowa**

*Outstanding State Provincial and Territorial Psychological Association Award*

Division 31 recognized IPA for its leadership, courage, and perseverance, as it exemplifies the very best of state psychological advocacy. Our State Psychological Associations work tirelessly to support psychologists and protect the integrity of our profession. But in 2024 and 2025, on top of everything else it does for its members, the Iowa Psychological Association was called to respond to an extraordinary challenge—one that threatened the security of psychological testing and the ethical foundations of our work. In early 2024, legislation and court action in Iowa sought to compel the disclosure of raw test data and assessment materials in legal proceedings. These efforts put test security, professional ethics, and public protection at risk. IPA

stepped forward immediately. When asked to file an amicus brief before the Iowa Supreme Court—on a tight timeline and with significant financial risk—they mobilized immediately. Their leadership secured legal expertise, raised funds, engaged national partners, and coordinated members across the state. They invested nearly daily hours in research, consultation, and advocacy, ensuring that the court fully understood the scientific, ethical, and legal stakes involved. They also built partnerships—working with APA, collaborating with Pearson, and organizing a highly effective moot court that strengthened the case. On February 14, 2025, their efforts were rewarded. The Iowa Supreme Court affirmed that test materials and data are protected under state law. But the impact did not stop there. Their work helped catalyze the adoption of APA's first formal policy on test security. Through vision, persistence, and collaboration, IPA demonstrated what is possible when an association leads with purpose. For protecting our science, our ethics, and the public we serve, the Iowa Psychological Association was presented with the Outstanding State, Provincial and Territorial Psychological Association Award. Congratulations!

## **Oklahoma**

Oklahoma is four weeks into its legislative session, and it is full speed ahead. OPA has authored a bill to change the managed care peer-to-peer process to a true peer-to-peer review for prior

authorizations. Additionally, the bill is designed to reimburse psychologists whose claims are denied, they must appeal and are compensated to also get compensated for the work on the appeal. OPA is also working, at their request, to move BCBA's and their OLBAB board activities underneath the Oklahoma Board of Examiners of Psychology (OSBEP). Both bills passed the first Senate committee and are headed to the full Senate floor. Outside of legislative activities, OPA is gearing up for collaborative continuing education with other SPTAs and Trust Risk Management workshops that will add a billers and coders breakouts to ensure training and education supports the psychological practice entirely, while looking at ways to engage these folks ongoing in OPA membership.

## **New Jersey**

The New Jersey Psychological Association (NJPA) is excited to announce our hybrid October 15-17 convention at the retro Asbury Hotel in Asbury Park. This is our second meeting in a resort location with late-night bowling, morning meet-ups on one of the best Jersey shore boardwalks, and an abundance of walkable gastronomic delights. In 2025, we introduced a new benefits-based membership structure and new benefits, including free home studies. We continue to experiment with new ways to support member needs through DPA services such as pop-up "DPA Hot Topics" events. NJPA's legislative agenda

**SPTA update**

Continued on page 18

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### SPTA update

Continued from page 17

includes permanent telehealth payment parity (currently expires 6/30/26), RxP, and reimbursable billing codes for use in non-face-to-face clinical work.

### New Mexico

As part of its strategic goal to grow the psychology workforce in the state, the New Mexico Psychological Association has started a scholarship program

to pay the EPPP exam and sitting fee for applicants seeking licensure in New Mexico who have expressed their interest in staying in New Mexico and serving our communities.

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### Member Spotlight

Continued from page 13

Leaders and as a member of the APA Board of Professional Affairs. She has also contributed to the GPA Political Action Committee and currently serves on APA's Needs Assessment, Slating, and Campaign Committee.

Her dedication to leadership and service was recognized in 2025 with an award from Division 31.

### Beyond the Profession

Outside of her professional work, Kamieka enjoys activities that bring creativity and balance to her life. She loves traveling, photography, cocktail making, caring for her plants, exploring farmers markets, and cooking. As the child of Jamaican immigrants, she values her cultural roots and the perspective they bring to both her personal life and professional work.

### Looking Ahead

Through her leadership, advocacy, and clinical practice, Dr. Kamieka Gabriel continues to make meaningful contributions to the field of psychology while supporting the well-being of individuals and communities alike. She looks forward to continued travels and new adventures.

We are proud to highlight Kamieka's work and the impact she continues to make across the profession!

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### Advancing initiatives

Continued from page 1

Fortunato, and Corbin Evans from APA Services. This timely discussion highlighted how critical strong state, provincial, and territorial leadership is in shaping responsible policy. We were grateful for the strong interest in this important conversation with over 220 colleagues registering for this session.

On February 24, 2026, we hosted a town hall on **SPTA Insurance Advocacy: Protecting Your Interests**, featuring Dustin J. McKee, Chief Executive Officer, and Dr. Jim Broyles, Director of Professional Affairs at the Ohio Psychological Association. We are grateful to

them for sharing their valuable insights into insurance advocacy and practical strategies for protecting the financial interests of psychologists.

We look forward to continuing the series with additional town halls on March 24, April 28, and May 28.

The March 24 town hall, **"State Advocacy Trends: Advocating for Increased Commercial Reimbursement and Trainee Reimbursement,"** will feature Alix Ginsberg and Dr. Stephen Gillaspay from APA's advocacy team. They will discuss how policy developments at the federal level are influencing legislative activity in the states, emerging challenges and

opportunities for psychology advocacy, and strategies for effective engagement.

Division 31 also held its annual **Board of Directors Mid-Winter Meeting** on February 5th in Washington, DC. This meeting provided an opportunity to hear updates from our committees and engage in thoughtful discussion about the legislative and policy issues affecting our state, provincial and territorial associations. We were pleased to be joined by APA staff including Katherine McGuire, Alix Ginsberg, Deborah Baker, and Dr. Stephen Gillaspay, whose work and partnership continues to be critical and invaluable to our work.

**Advancing initiatives**

Continued on page 19

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## Advancing initiatives

Continued from page 18

As in past years, the Division 31 midwinter meeting was held in conjunction with the 2026 Practice & SPTA Leaders Conference. This year's conference theme, **"Maximizing Reach, Relevance, and Readiness,"** reflected the dynamic challenges and opportunities facing psychological associations today. The return of concurrent sessions—following a hiatus during the pandemic—created space for rich dialogue and the exchange of innovative ideas among association leaders.

I would like to extend special thanks to Alix Ginsberg and the APA team for organizing a conference that thoughtfully addressed key legislative and advocacy priorities while also focusing on the organizational leadership challenges facing SPTAs. Division 31 members played an important role in the program, with numerous members presenting sessions on topics ranging from licensing board consolidation and advocacy messaging to succession planning, membership engagement, interdisciplinary collaboration, and leadership development.

It was also my great privilege to present two Division 31 awards during the conference. Danna Christie Fowble received the **Outstanding Achievement by a Psychological Association Staff Member** Award, and the Iowa Psychological Association

received the **Outstanding State, Provincial, and Territorial Psychological Association Award**.

### Practice & SPTA Leadership Conference Impact Survey

In recent conversations with APA staff, the Division 31 Board was asked to reflect on the impacts of the APA Practice and State Leadership Conference. We are turning to the many leaders who have participated in these conferences over the years. We invite past attendees to complete a brief, anonymous survey to share their experiences and insights. Your feedback will help us better understand the value of PSLC (formerly called SLC) and strengthen future programming to better support state, provincial, and territorial psychological associations.

The [survey](#) takes approximately six minutes to complete. I will share the results during my Division 31 Presidential Address at the 2026 APA Convention. We would greatly appreciate your participation and encourage you to share the surveys with colleagues from your state who have attended SLC/PSLC in the past.



### Looking Ahead to the APA Convention

Planning for the 2026 APA Convention is already well underway. I want to thank our Convention Co-Chairs, Peter Mikoski and Chris Townsend, for

their exceptional leadership in this process. We received an impressive array of proposals—far more than our available programming hours—and we are grateful to the many members who volunteered their time to participate in the peer review process.

At our convention awards event, Division 31 will present the following honors:

- Outstanding State, Provincial, and Territorial Association Psychologist Award
- Outstanding State/Provincial/Territorial Association Early Career Psychologist Leader
- SPTA Diversity Award
- Outstanding State/Provincial/Territorial Association Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Leader

In addition, we will host the Heiser Awards, the National Register SPTA Advocacy Awards, and an award presented by the APA Committee on Rural Health.

### Recognition at the APA Council of Representatives

Finally, the APA Council of Representatives met this past February. I am delighted to share that Division 31's Rural Health Section, together with the APA Committee on Rural Health and the APA Rural Health Caucus, collectively received an APA Presidential Citation for their leadership and sustained commitment to improving mental health care in rural communities. Their work represents the very best of psychology's dedication to service and public welfare.



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## Hey Jude

Continued from page 15  
number of citizens overwhelmed, distressed and struggling. To reverse the soaring demand for care, we need to work on prevention – which will benefit all of the population but in the short run that requires a larger workforce! We need the right providers in the right places to provide the right care.

“We must build trust and address misinformation. By addressing the mental and behavioral aspects of physical health, psychologists ensure a more holistic, patient-centered approach to decision-making informed by clear thinking about what the evidence says and doesn’t say. It is important that psychologists have active roles in policy debates. I believe in us. You inspire me. You make me proud to be a psychologist. Together, we can reach farther. We are ready for this moment.”

**Licensure Mobility:** As the leaders of our nation’s healthcare systems increasingly embrace the ever-expanding advances occurring within the communications and technology fields (e.g., Artificial Intelligence (AI), Health Care Apps, and Virtual Communication), it is important for our state associations to address the issue of licensure mobility. The Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT) was developed by the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) in 2011 to facilitate telepsychology services across state lines. Alex Siegel, ASPPB Director of Professional Affairs, reports: “Currently there are 43 jurisdictions that have enacted PSYPACT with 16,081 ac-

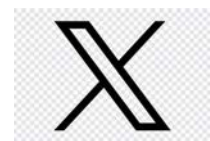
tive APIT holders and 932 active TAP holders. Last year, there was PSYPACT legislation introduced in Hawaii, Iowa, Massachusetts, and New York. In 2026, legislation has been introduced in Alaska, Hawaii, and Iowa. Those jurisdictions which are not part of PSYPACT nor have any pending legislation include: California, Guam, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oregon, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.” In my judgment, the Sleepy Seven simply continue to slumber and, in so doing, continue to ignore a significant and visionary APA endorsed policy.

**Educating The Public and Our Elected Officials:** “Like no time in recent memory, lawmakers are setting their sights anywhere but Capitol Hill – setting the stage for crucial midterm elections that will feature fewer incumbents than usual and ensure more fresh faces in Congress” (Washington Post). As of late February, 68 Senate and House members have said they will not seek reelection. And yet, an unprecedented 31 have filed to run for another office, with a number of them seeking to return home as Governor. In recent Congressional terms, Congress has passed the fewest number of bills since the early 1900s. Bitterly partisan politics, intraparty feuds, and narrow majorities make it difficult for the elected Party Leaders to compromise without serious backlash from influential corners of their caucuses. And, with the retirement of a number of very senior leaders in both parties and in both Houses of Congress, this dynamic opens up the opportunity (and admittedly the challenge) for instituting significant changes within our nation’s healthcare system and its

historical priorities. For example, has the time finally arrived for providing significant financial and personnel resources in order to address the psychosocial/behavioral component of quality physical health care?

In this light and time of unique opportunity, it has been refreshing to recently read several impressive Opinion page commentaries by leaders of the pharmacy and nursing professions highlighting their primary care provider roles and particularly their potential for providing timely, cost-effective, and necessary health care services to those who have been historically underserved for a number of reasons, including artificial practitioner scope of practice barriers and the potential beneficiaries’ age, physical location (i.e., rural or homebound), and/or their lack of access to advanced technology, culturally sensitive providers, or required financing. The underlying proffered messages are: “Shouldn’t the patients make the decision as to which providers they would like to see? And, Shouldn’t all health care providers be able to practice to the fullest extent of their education and training?”

Accordingly, we would rhetorically ask: Are our State Associations providing similar public service messages? Do they appreciate the importance of Steve Ragusea’s vision: “Psychologists are arguably the best trained mental health professionals in the world because our training model is superior. We shouldn’t be afraid to say so – like many other professions, we should market our expertise!” “Na, na na nananana, nannana, hey Jude” (*The Beatles, Hey Jude*). Aloha,



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