



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

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

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Focus on 31

Summer 2026 • Volume 58 • Issue 2

Div. 31 Learned at Town Halls and Rapid Response Forums



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

It's been a busy few months! With the support of our Executive Director Dr. Connie Paul, many board members, and our partner organizations, we hosted a number of town halls, rapid response forums, and launched our SPTA liaison meetings. We had permission to record some of them and you can find them on the Division 31 website: <https://www.apadivisions.org/division-31/news-events>.

[apadivisions.org/division-31/news-events](https://www.apadivisions.org/division-31/news-events). A special thank you to APA staff Alix Ginsberg, MPH, Stephen R. Gillaspy, PhD, Karen Studwell, JD, Leanna Fortunato, PhD, Corbin Evans, JD, and Deborah Baker, JD for leading a number of our programs. I am also grateful to our colleague Alex Siegel, JD, PhD from Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards and Division 31 members from SPTAs from across the country for sharing your insights and best practices. Thank you to Peter M. Oppenheimer, PhD, Rhode Island; Dustin J. McKee, MSW, and Jim Broyles, PhD, Ohio; Ann

Div. 31 Learning Events

Continued on page 16

Congratulations to New Officers

Congratulations to Division 31's new officers for 2027 and beyond:

President-elect:

Diana Prescott, PhD

Secretary:

Jeanne Slattery, PhD

Member-at-Large:

Julie Wolters, PsyD

Shannon Goecke-Watson, PsyD will fill the remainder of Prescott's Member-at-Large term once she becomes President-Elect in January.



APA 2026

AUGUST 6-8 | WASHINGTON, DC + VIRTUAL

Join Division 31 at APA 2026!

Friday, August 7th

8:30-9:30am: Reinventing the Doctoral Psychologist: Leading the Market, Not Chasing It

1:00-2:00pm: Amplifying Impact: SPTA Strategic Advocacy-An Historical Perspective (CE available)

2:30-3:30pm: Division 31 Presidential Address

4:00-5:00pm: Heiser Award Ceremony

5:30-7:30pm: Division 31 Social Hour

Saturday, August 8th

8:30-9:30am: Rural Communities: An exploration of IPV & Identity (CE Available)

10:30-11:30am: HealthCare Integration from Local to Global: Facts vs. Misinformation

Support Div. 31 and Sponsor the Convention Social Hour!

Support one of Division 31's signature events at the APA Convention—our Annual Awards Ceremony and Social Hour on Friday, August 7, 5:30–7:30 pm, at the Marriott Marquis (901 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001), Congress Room. This gathering brings together leaders and members from state, provincial, and territorial psychological associations for connection, collaboration, and celebration. Sponsorships help offset catering costs and ensure a welcoming event for our SPTA community. All are welcome!

Sponsorship Levels

\$1,000 Platinum

\$750 Gold

\$500 Silver

\$250 Bronze

\$100 Friend

All sponsors will be recognized at the Social Hour, in our newsletter, and on the Division 31 website. To sponsor: Contact Division 31 Treasurer Dr. Nan Klein at drnanklein@gmail.com or (801) 913-4233.



I Left the DLP Cohort Feeling Ready to Take on the World



**Firouz
Ardalan PhD
2026 DLP
Cohort
Graduate**

It was truly an honor to be part of the 2026 Diversity Leadership Program (DLP) cohort. Being selected to represent my state at the Practice and SPTA Leaders Conference in Washington, DC was humbling. I found myself among a wonderful, thoughtful, accomplished, and genuinely caring group of individuals. The environment fostered by both the faculty and cohort members was inspiring, welcoming, and supportive in ways I did not fully

anticipate. I left feeling ready to take on the world!

The DLP offered something rare: a space to slow down, reflect, and explore my identity — not only as a psychologist and a clinician, but as a leader. The faculty and cohort members alike contributed to an atmosphere of openness and curiosity that made honest self-examination feel both safe and meaningful.

One message among many that proved transformative was coming to understand that leadership is not a fixed set of traits one is born with or must attain. Rather, strong leaders are fostered, mentored, and supported over time. They come to understand who they are, what their unique skill set makes possible, and how to leverage those strengths with intention

and confidence. I will continue to challenge myself to remain curious, introspective, and responsive as I grow under the mentorship of Dr. Mayra Ortiz.

I leave the 2026 DLP cohort with greater clarity on how to grow and a deeper appreciation for the diversity of leadership. Thank you for such an incredible opportunity.

Firouz Ardalan, Ph.D., is a full-time staff psychologist at The Galynker Family Centers for Bipolar Disorder and Suicide Prevention and maintains a private practice. A past president of NYSPA's Early Career Psychologist SIG, he currently serves as its Rep. to Council and chairs the Membership Committee for APA Division 29 (Society for the Advancement of Psychotherapy).



Member Spotlight: Dr. Sharon Lee

Professional and Educational Background:

Dr. Lee earned her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Iowa and her M.A. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Missouri. She completed her predoctoral internship at the University of Maryland, College Park Counseling Center and her postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Delaware Counseling Center.

Her work focuses on self-compassion, perfectionism, cross-cultural dialogue, career development for underserved communities, and advocacy for immigrant and BIPOC populations.

A licensed psychologist in Delaware, Dr. Lee is the founder of Embracing Self Counseling & Consultation LLC, where she provides psychotherapy, consultation, and training. She also leads workshops, consults with organizations, and teaches as an adjunct faculty member.

Key experiences that shaped Dr. Lee's training and career path

Dr. Lee's intersecting identities and the people who have supported her throughout her training and career have had the greatest influence on her professional journey. As a 1.5-generation Asian American, she has developed a deep appreciation for the central role identity plays in psychological well-being. Witnessing the disparities experienced by racial and ethnic minority communities—particularly immigrants from cultures where mental health

stigma remains prevalent and who often face barriers to equitable access to care in the United States—has profoundly shaped her work as a counseling psychologist.

Mentorship has been a consistent and transformative force throughout Dr. Lee's life and career. As an undergraduate student, participation in a mentoring program for Asian American students helped her navigate barriers that can limit access to careers in psychology and mental health. During her master's training, mentors helped her deepen her understanding of social justice within psychology and recognize the importance of addressing systemic inequities to create meaningful change. Throughout her doctoral training, faculty mentors and clinical supervisors further supported her in translating those values into action as a psychologist.

Dr. Lee remains deeply grateful for the support she continues to receive in this current chapter of her career. Her peers, family, and friends have provided encouragement and invaluable guidance as she navigates the opportunities and challenges of private practice ownership. Leaders within the Delaware Psychological Association have helped her better understand how psychologists can make a meaningful impact at the state level. Additionally, her Division 31 mentor, Dr. Kamieka Gabriel, has strengthened her appreciation for advocacy and engagement within State, Provincial, and Territorial



Psychological Associations (SPTAs).

Finding Community and Purpose Through DPA

Dr. Lee has served as Chair of the Diversity Committee for the Delaware Psychological Association (DPA) for the past two years.

She first became involved with her SPTA while launching her private practice. Recognizing that private practice can sometimes be an isolating professional path, she sought opportunities to connect with colleagues and build a strong professional community within her state. A close friend and fellow psychologist encouraged her to join DPA's Diversity Committee, highlighting the committee's leadership and its commitment to fostering an organization that values diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. That mission resonated deeply with Dr. Lee and motivated her to become involved.

What began as a search for community quickly evolved into a meaningful leadership opportunity. Through her involvement with

Member Spotlight

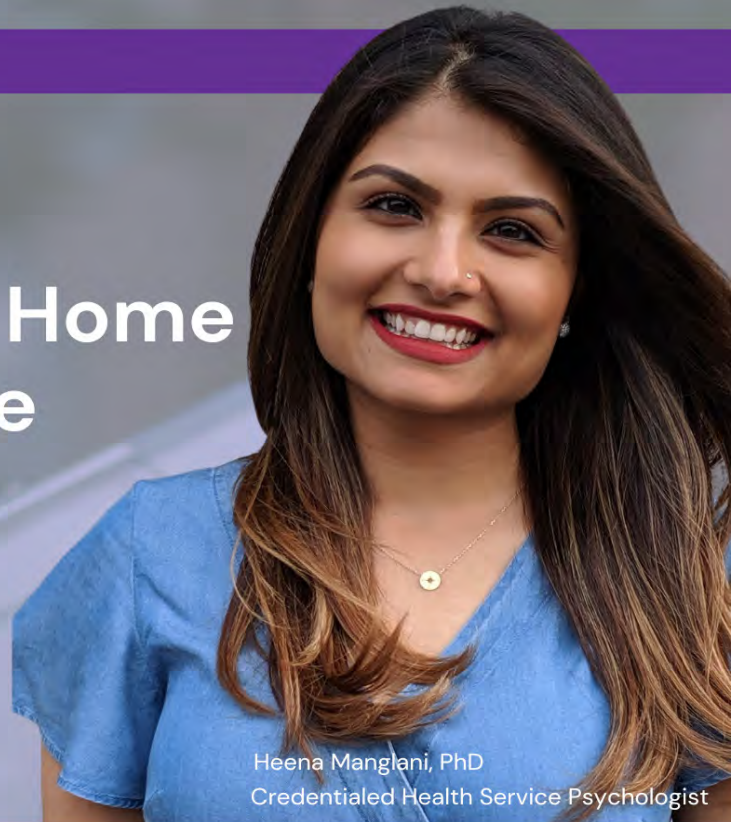
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NATIONAL REGISTER
OF HEALTH SERVICE PSYCHOLOGISTS

The Professional Home for Health Service Psychologists

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Heena Manglani, PhD
Credentialed Health Service Psychologist



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



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

Addressing the Needs of the Underserved: Organized Medicine's "public health hazard" arguments against the expansion of non-physician scope of practice laws relies upon generating emotion, rather than exploring objective facts. This ignores the very real needs of those without access to necessary services, and particularly our nation's elderly and youth. Beth Rom-Rymer: "Our Prescriptive Authority statue in Illinois is unique in comparison with other states' RxP statutes in that we have the most rigorous education and training requirements, as well as some prescribing constraints that other RxP statutes do not have. I am overjoyed to report that one of those constraints, the constraint from prescribing for adults, over the age of 65, was removed by our State House (SB 1743) with a vote of 67-31-0 on Friday, May 22nd. SB 1743 had been passed by our State Senate with a vote of 52-1-0 on Wednesday, April 29th.

"Whereas we had full bipartisan support in our Senate, only one Republican (a representative from a particularly underserved community in Southwestern Illinois) voted for our legislation in the House. We would have

had an even more robust House Democratic vote but for many of our Democratic legislators who had already left the Capital for political events over the Memorial Day holiday weekend. It will be 30 days (approximately June 22nd) before our bill goes to Governor JB Pritzker for signature. He then has 69 days to sign. While we are doing 'careful lobbying' with our Governor, we do not anticipate difficulties. SB 1743 is the first significant RxP legislation that Illinois has passed since our original Prescriptive Authority bill had been passed out of our General Assembly on May 30th, 2014. Our then-Governor Pat Quinn signed our legislation into law on June 25th, 2014, just 26 days after legislative passage.

"Our IAPP lobbyists, Taylor Uhe, and our IAPP (Illinois Association of Prescribing Psychologists) and IPA (Illinois Psychological Association) teams have been magnificent in their intense engagement and active work to gather support from our healthcare provider and other community partners!! This latest legislative success demonstrates, once again, Ron Fox's famous adage, 'If you don't quit, you will win.' In passing controversial legislation, it is important to get a first win and then sustain the energy and the commitment to continue molding your legislation as sculptors mold their clay.

Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC): Aimee Grace, former U.S. Senate staff and currently Director of the Office of Strategic Health

Initiatives for the University of Hawaii System, shared the American Academy of Pediatrics' May 22nd Call for Action email: "This week is Emergency Medical Services week, and it's important that lawmakers hear from pediatricians about this vital program. Right now, Congress is involved in a month-long appropriations process to determine funding for federal agencies and programs for the next federal year, which starts on October 1st. Why the program is important: The EMSC program is the only federal program dedicated to improving emergency medical care for children. In emergencies, children have unique needs – they require special equipment, medications, protocols, and skills. EMSC's work supports more than 5,000 emergency departments and 15,000 Emergency Medical Services agencies nationwide and the 35 million children they treat each year.

"In 2024, the AAP supported the successful reauthorization of the EMSC program on a bipartisan basis.... Most recently, Congress authorized the full \$24.334 million in funding for EMSC in the FY26 budget. Full funding for the program will allow states to address gaps in children's access to high quality emergency and trauma care." The program was initially authorized in 1984, in response to an unfortunate personal experience involving my daughter. We understand it was especially timely for the first responders to

Trees and Roses
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SPTA Updates for Summer 2026



Jennifer Kelly PhD, ABPP, former APA President

Alaska

The Alaska Psychological Association (AK-PA) recently concluded its annual board elections, with 25% of eligible voting members participating in the selection of a new Executive Committee and three first-term Members-at-Large. The newly elected officers, whose terms begin in August, are Marjorie Kylie, PsyD, President; Kevin Tarlow, PhD, President-Elect; Monique Andrews, PsyD, Secretary; and Bekah Villalon, PhD, Treasurer. The Board meets from September through May and takes the summer months to recharge and prepare for the upcoming year. In legislative news, Alaska is poised to join PSYPACT through broader compact legislation highlighted in the state's Rural Health Transformation Program. The bill, which includes PSYPACT among five interstate compacts, passed during the final day of the legislative session and is expected to be signed by the Governor, expanding opportunities for telepsychology and interjurisdictional practice. Arizona Psychological Association

Arizona

The Arizona Psychological

Association (AzPA) has remained active this year in supporting professional engagement, education, and advocacy for Arizona psychologists. With support from our board liaison and legislative committee, members have received regular updates on licensure renewals and key legislative developments impacting the field. Committees across the organization, from Ethics and Legislative to Diversity, Membership, and Early Career Psychologists, continue to meet regularly, expand member involvement, and provide valuable resources such as ethical guidance, networking opportunities, and professional development programming. Educational offerings this spring included CE events, ethics programming, and social networking opportunities. The Arizona Psychological Foundation continues to support student engagement through scholarships, poster session, and fundraising initiatives. Preparations are well underway for the 2026 AzPA Annual Convention, scheduled for October 23–25 at the We-Ko-Pa Resort, with sponsorship opportunities open now and attendee registration opening in July. AzPA maintains a strong focus on community, inclusion, and professional growth.

Arkansas

This spring, the Arkansas Psychological Association (ArPA) has been actively engaged in advancing psychology and connecting with our community across the state. Ten ArPA

members participated in Legislative Day at the State Capitol on April 21, meeting directly with state legislators to advocate for issues including Psychology Board structure, reimbursement and billing, and scope of practice protections. Last weekend, ArPA also hosted a vendor table at SoMa Pride in Little Rock, engaging community members around Pride, mental health awareness, and the organization's mission. In addition, the association launched a new member benefit through a partnership with TheraClosure for professional will and practice continuity planning and celebrated Dr. Amy Seay's reappointment as Arkansas' APA Council Representative. Committees across the organization—including Government Relations, Diversity, Membership, Early Career Professionals, and Professional Development—continued strong programming, including Lunch & Learn sessions, peer consultations, and planning for the Fall Conference on October 22–23. ArPA remains committed to advocacy, professional growth, and building a connected community for psychology professionals throughout Arkansas.

British Columbia

British Columbia psychologists continue to advance efforts to integrate psychologists into Community Health Centres and primary care settings throughout the province. Working collaboratively with

SPTA Updates
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National Register Names SPTA Advocacy Award Winners



**Andrew
Boucher**
CEO

We are proud to announce the recipients of the 2026 National Register SPTA Advocacy Awards: Illinois Psychological Association, Nebraska Psychological Association, and Ohio Psychological Association. These three associations will receive a \$5,000 prize in recognition of their outstanding advocacy accomplishments and be honored at the Division 31 Social Hour at the APA Convention.

We'd like to extend a hearty congratulations to these three associations, and particularly their Board members, Executive Directors, staff and volunteers who do such wonderful work. Please take a moment and read more about their outstanding accomplishments. Click the state name for a link to their release.

[Illinois](#)

April D. Fernando, PhD, member of the National Register Board of Directors and Chair of the National Register's SPTA Advocacy Award Committee, said of the Illinois Psychological Association: "The Committee was incredibly impressed with the results of IPA's advocacy work to advance parity and reimbursement, specifically the dramatic increase in mandated reimbursement floors, audit

protections for providers, and regulatory enforcement of parity. We were also delighted with their work to protect psychologists' scope of practice and licensure and their proactive efforts to lead conversations on the regulation of AI, psychedelics, and crisis care. Truly remarkable accomplishments – congratulations to IPA!"

After receiving notice of the award, Sue H. Bae, PhD, IPA Immediate Past President, stated, "This award is a powerful testament to the relentless dedication of our legislative committee and the collective strength of our entire membership. True advocacy is never a solo effort; it requires a deeply committed team working together to turn complex policy challenges into meaningful legislative victories. This recognition from the National Register belongs to every single volunteer, committee member, and advocate of IPA who has given their time and voice to championing the profession and the communities we serve across Illinois. While we are incredibly proud of what this team has built over the past years, our committee remains focused on the vital work ahead."

[Nebraska](#)

Fernando said of the Nebraska Psychological Association: "The Committee was incredibly impressed with the results of NPA's advocacy work to address the broken relationship between behavioral health providers and Nebraska's managed care organizations (MCOs) through

audit transparency, appeals protection, statute of limitations, proportionality standard, and dup process. We were also delighted that NPA was able to secure Medicaid reimbursement for doctoral psychology interns. Truly remarkable accomplishments – congratulations to NPA!"

After receiving notice of the award, Carmen Skare, NPA Executive Director, stated, "NPA is extremely honored to receive the National Register's SPTA Advocacy Award recognizing the relentless work of our very dedicated volunteers. The successful passage of two bills addressing Medicaid audits and psychology intern reimbursement during a single session is an extraordinary outcome for NPA, and evidence that small SPTAs can achieve landmark legislative victories through persistence, expertise, and heart. It acknowledges the power of psychologists who believe deeply in their mission and act on it. We now focus on diligently monitoring implementation of the new requirements, and continuing our efforts to build strong advocacy coalitions as we address our state's access-to-care and workforce shortage challenges."

[Ohio](#)

Fernando said of the Ohio State Psychological Association: "The Committee was incredibly impressed with the results of OPA's advocacy work to secure state funding for their pilot project to attract top interns to Ohio and establish the state's first doctoral

National Register Awards
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Div. 31 Seeking Mentors: Complete the Form Below



Mayra Zoe Ortiz, PsyD
Division 31
Past President
Chair:
DLP Task Force
Mentorship Program

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.

Just complete and return the form below!



Division 31 ***State, Provincial & Territorial Affairs*** ***Mentorship Program***

Name: _____ **Degree:** _____
SPTA Affiliation: _____
Email Address: _____
Preferred Phone: _____

Current & Past Leadership Positions: _____

Areas in which you are comfortable mentoring:

☐ Adults
☐ Applied Psychology
☐ Child & Adolescents
☐ Chronic Illness
☐ Disability
☐ EDI
☐ Geriatric
☐ Integrated Care
☐ Substance Abuse

☐ LGBTQIA+
☐ Marriage & Family Counseling
☐ Organizational Strategies
☐ Practice Issues
☐ Prescriptive Authority for Psychologists (Rx P)
☐ Political Advocacy
☐ Rural Communities
☐ 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 RETURN THIS FORM to Dr. Mayra Ortiz at zoe07470@gmail.com

2026 Division 31 Calendar of Meetings and Liaison Activities



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

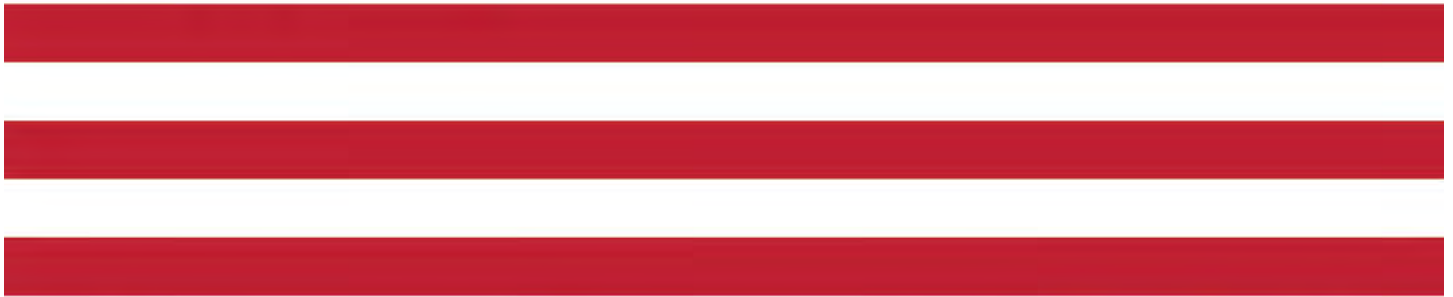
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Focus on 31 invites you to consider advertising in our newsletter. Published three times annually, we reach decision makers throughout the profession. For details, [email](#) the Editor.

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.

- 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



Freedom 250



SPTA Updates

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the British Columbia Ministry of Health, the association is developing a proposal to support implementation in the coming year, to improve access to publicly funded psychological services within everyday healthcare settings. The Board recently held its Annual Retreat to review strategic priorities, strengthen its advocacy framework, and ensure organizational goals remain responsive to the evolving needs of members. In addition, the association successfully completed the inaugural season of its podcast, *Inside Your Mind*, a six-episode series that provided practical mental health information to the public while creating a new avenue for member and community engagement.

Missouri

The Missouri Psychological Association (MOPA) just completed its annual conference, and we were excited to have MOPA member and APA's next president, Dr. Linda Woolf, as our keynote. The conference, for the first time, had a five-hour free track for students that included a data blitz, a chance to hear Dr. Woolf, a visit with our licensure board, and talks on professional psychology. Missouri's legislative session ended, and we were able to stop a bill from going forward that would have granted doctoral reimbursement to master's providers. We are moving to a two-year presidency, and happy to announce that Dr. Jessica Gerfen will be the first to hold that position. We also added to

our Board of Directors a new Education and Training Director position. Our Board of Directors was pleased to endorse MOPA's CEO and Director of Professional Affairs for APA President-Elect.

New Hampshire

The New Hampshire Psychological Association (NHPA) successfully opposed legislation related to artificial intelligence that would have imposed liability on licensed professionals, created disparities among healthcare professions regarding the use of digital therapeutics, hindered important generative AI research, and failed to adequately protect consumers from commonly used AI chatbots. NHPA is pleased that this outcome creates an opportunity to develop and support future legislation grounded in meaningful consumer protection while preserving innovation and equitable standards across healthcare professions. In addition, NHPA is transitioning to the JourneyCARE website platform, which is expected to enhance member engagement and strengthen communication with the association's membership.

Oklahoma

The Oklahoma Psychological Association (OPA) remains actively engaged in protecting psychology licensure, advancing behavioral healthcare, and advocating for the profession. This legislative session yielded several important successes, including the enactment of SB 1557, which places Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) under the oversight of the Oklahoma

State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (OSBEP), and SB 1553, which establishes true peer-to-peer review requirements for prior authorization consultations involving psychologists and managed care organizations. OPA worked closely with stakeholders to support both measures and will remain involved as implementation and rulemaking move forward. The association also successfully opposed efforts that would have sunset OSBEP, preserving the independence and integrity of psychology licensure in Oklahoma. As the legislative session concluded amid a highly active election cycle, OPA continued to monitor emerging issues affecting behavioral health regulation and encouraged members to strengthen psychology's voice through grassroots advocacy and engagement with elected officials.

Virginia Academy of Clinical Psychologists

The Virginia Academy of Clinical Psychologists (VACP) continues to advance the profession through advocacy, education, and strategic planning initiatives. This summer, VACP launched a successful virtual Continuing Education Series addressing topics such as psychological assessment, ethics and artificial intelligence, psychopharmacology, and legislative developments affecting behavioral health practice. A major organizational priority remains the exploration of a carefully structured pathway toward prescription privileges (RxP) for

SPTA Updates

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SPTA Updates

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appropriately trained psychologists in Virginia. VACP has engaged psychologists, legislators, healthcare stakeholders, and national RxP leaders in developing a Virginia-specific framework that emphasizes patient safety, rigorous training standards, interprofessional collaboration,

and improved access to behavioral healthcare, particularly in underserved communities. The Academy also remains active in legislative and regulatory advocacy, monitoring issues including telehealth, reimbursement, workforce shortages, artificial intelligence, and healthcare access while continuing to protect independent psychological

practice and patient access to services. As planning begins for the 2027 legislative session, VACP encourages members to become involved in advocacy and leadership efforts as the Academy works to strengthen the role of clinical psychologists in delivering high-quality behavioral healthcare across the Commonwealth.

National Register Awards

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internship program in all six of state-run psychiatric hospitals. We were equally impressed with their efforts to successfully reform the insurance practice of skimming 3-5% off the top of ETF reimbursements to health and behavioral health providers. Truly remarkable accomplishments – congratulations to OPA!”

After receiving notice of the award, Dustin J. McKee, Chief Executive Officer of the Ohio

Psychological Association, stated, “We are honored to receive the SPTA Advocacy Award from the National Register. Psychologists in Ohio and across the nation want to make sure that everyone has access to quality mental healthcare when they need it. Everything we advocate for is centered on helping our loved ones and fellow citizens access this life saving care. From defending the independent practice of psychology and protecting access to care for vulnerable populations – to growing the

psychological care workforce and reforming insurance – OPA will continue to work everyday to achieve that goal.”

Finally, we'd like to thank the members of the National Register SPTA Awards Committee including April D. Fernando, PhD (Chair), Chuck Hollister, PhD, Michele McKinnie, PsyD, Kweku Ramel Smith, PhD, and Mayra Zoe Ortiz, PsyD. We are so appreciative of their work and the warm collaboration with APA Division 31.

For more information, visit the [SPTA Advocacy Award](#) page.



Trees and Roses

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the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing disaster. This is where nursing and psychology can make a significant difference.

The National Society of Autism Professionals (NSAP):

Those fortunate to attend the annual Practice and SPTA Leaders Conferences in Washington, DC have personally seen the vision, dedication, and professionalism of now former APA staff Robin McLeod. She recently was selected as the CEO of the NSAP, bringing together professionals across disciplines with a shared purpose to improve the lives of autistic individuals and their families [<https://nsap.org/>].

Robin: “The autism field has grown rapidly, but it’s been grown in silos. Professionals are doing deeply important work, but they’re often doing it in isolation – within disciplines, within systems and across different stages of life. There has never been one place where all of that expertise comes together. NSAP changes that. Over the past two decades, autism services have expanded significantly across behavioral health but without a shared forum to connect them. As a result, professionals have largely operated side by side rather than together. We have strong research in some areas and emerging research in others. What’s been missing is a way to objectively evaluate that evidence and translate it into guidelines the field and policymakers can trust. There’s an entire population of professionals who advocate

for autistic individuals and their families guided by a shared purpose to shape truly meaningful, life-changing outcomes for autistic individuals and their families. By bringing autism professionals together, along with all of their expertise, wisdom, and insight, we end up with exponentially greater impact overall” [Robin.McLeod@nsap.org].

The Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum:

Just prior to the Memorial Day recess, the U.S. House of Representatives was unable to agree upon a bipartisan approach for construction of the museum, which was authorized in 2020. Colleen Hacker, U.S. Women’s Olympic medal honoree, has been participating in Game Changers, a display of 26 life-size, 3-D printed statues celebrating female leaders whose work demonstrates how science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fuel the world of sports. The exhibit will be on public display at the Fan Festival at Dallas’ Fair Park during the FIFA World Cup 2026. Each statute includes a QR code that unlocks videos and images that bring these outstanding women’s journeys to life. The exhibit follows up upon the earlier debut of #1ThenSheCan which featured 120 statues of contemporary women in STEM. Colleen, who has been recognized by psychology for her decades of research on the benefits to girls and women of engaging in team sports, notes that currently only six percent of publicly displayed statues in our nation are of women.

An Uncharted and Highly Rewarding Journey:

Karen Pellegrin: “Long before ‘interprofessional education’ became fashionable, my pre-doctoral internship preceptor Patrick O’Neil trained all of his psychology interns at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Weight Management Center in a team that included a physician, a nurse, a registered dietitian, and an exercise physiologist. I not only learned a lot from these healthcare professionals but also gained perspective on how differentiated and valuable the psychologist’s skills are on a care team, particularly beyond addressing diseases and towards optimizing health and wellness. My other key mentor at MUSC was an administrator, Hal Currey, who supported the application of these skills to organizational health and wellness. He established a post-doctoral fellowship in Health Psychology and Quality Management for me at MUSC, after which I completed an MBA.

“I was recruited to serve as the Director of Quality for MUSC’s large academic medical center. I remember saying to the CEO -- ‘Don’t you want a nurse for this position? I don’t know anything about infection control!’ She assured me that the nurses on my team would have those areas covered. What she wanted was someone with expertise in behavior change and statistical methods to help move (and measure!) the organization from the old model of quality assurance to the new model of continuous quality improvement

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that had transformed other industries such as aviation. I was inspired and completely on board with that vision – it was a great role for a clinical psychologist.

“After MUSC received outstanding accreditation scores, I was recruited to serve as the quality and strategy executive with a private company that conducted clinical trials for pharmaceutical companies. I continued in that role even after moving to Hilo, Hawaii with my husband (also a clinical psychologist), who was recruited by the Psychology Department. It was a complete coincidence that Senator Inouye envisioned a new College of Pharmacy in Hilo with

Professor of Psychology Jerry Johnson and Chancellor Rose Tsang. I never intended to return to academia, but UH Hilo’s College of Pharmacy founding Dean John Pezzuto had a compelling vision. I’m grateful he recruited me to join the faculty, and every day I’ve applied my skills as a clinical psychologist to optimizing health and wellness via teaching, research and service. I’m occasionally asked why I left psychology – my response is that I’ve never left but rather brought psychology to places where it was needed. This path comes with challenges, but I was trained to work outside of traditional boundaries from the beginning – and I’m still loving it!”

Licensure Mobility: Alex Siegel, Director of Professional Affairs, ASPPB: “There is a lot going on. PSYPACT passed out of the legislature in Iowa and Louisiana hopefully to be signed. When both are, it will bring the total to 45 jurisdictions. In New York PSYPACT passed out of the New York State Assembly Higher Education Committee. This is a big deal. First time PSYPACT passed out of a committee in New York. Now down to the Sleepy Six: California, Oregon, Guam, New Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.” “Yes, I think to myself. What a wonderful world. Ooh, yes” (Louis Armstrong. *What a Wonderful World*).

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Marie Frakes, MPA, Pennsylvania; Raymond Folen, PhD, Hawaii; Federico “Felito” Aldarondo, PhD, and Eric Russ, PhD, Kentucky; Michael Changaris, PsyD, California; Elise Oehring, PhD, Tennessee; and Danna Fowble, CCM, IOM, Oklahoma and Florida. Here are all their presentations with links to materials.

- Division 31 Town Hall “*Partnering for Progress: Building Cross-Professional and Interdisciplinary Alliances*” conducted by Danna Fowble, CCM, IOM, Oklahoma Psychological Association and Florida Psychological Association; Eric Russ, PhD, Executive Director, Kentucky Psychological Association; and Karen Studwell, JD, APA

Deputy Chief Advocacy Officer, Strategy and Operations. June 2, 2026.

- Division 31 Town Hall “*Building Membership: Strategies for Growing Small, Medium, and Large SPTAs*” conducted by Ann Marie Frakes, MPA, ED, of PennPA; Raymond Folen, PhD, ED, of HawaiiPA; Federico “Felito” Aldarondo, PhD, President of KPA; Michael Changaris, PsyD, President, CPA; and Elise Oehring, PhD, ED, of TPA. April 28, 2026. View the [meeting video](#), [presentation slides](#), and the [report](#).
- Division 31 Town Hall “*State Advocacy Trends: Advocating for Increased Commercial Reimbursement and Trainee Reimbursement*” conducted by Alix Ginsberg, MPH, APA

Deputy Chief State Advocacy, and Stephen R. Gillaspay, PhD, Deputy Chief of Health Policy and Healthcare Financing. March 24, 2025.

- Division 31 Town Hall “*State Legislation on AI: Emerging Restrictions and Implications for Mental Health Providers*” conducted by Leanna Fortunato, Corbin Evans, and Deborah Baker from APA Services. February 17, 2026. [Presentation slides](#).
- Division 31 Town Hall “*SPTA Insurance Advocacy: Protecting Your Interests*” conducted by Dustin J. McKee, Chief Executive Officer & Jim Broyles, PhD, Director Of Professional Affairs, Ohio Psychological

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Association. February 24, 2026. [Presentation slides](#) and [OBHPIA Fall 2021-Spring 2022 Report](#).

- Division 31 Town Hall “APA’s Model License Act Revision Review of the Draft for Comments,” conducted by Alex Siegel, JD PhD and Peter M. Oppenheimer, PhD. January 8, 2026. [Presentation slides](#).

Earlier in June we kicked off the Division 31 Summer Series — programs designed to support SPTA leaders in strengthening advocacy, building strategic partnerships, and responding to emerging challenges facing psychology. From coalition-building and legislative strategy, to protecting psychological science funding and advancing practice advocacy priorities, these events provide timely information, practical tools, and opportunities for connection with colleagues across the country.

We hope you have attended the ones to date and will join us throughout the summer for these important conversations as we continue working together to advance psychology and support our associations, members, and communities.

Division 31 Summer Series:

- June 2 — Town Hall: *Partnering for Progress: Building Cross-Professional and Interdisciplinary Alliances* with Danna Fowble, IOM, Eric Russ, PhD and Karen Studwell, JD
- June 4 — SPTA Liaisons Monthly Meeting

- June 12 — D31 as part of the Coalition of Psychology Practice Organizations offers: Chiles v. Salazar: Implications for Psychology and Licensing with Steve Smith, JD (presenter) and Nan Klein, PhD (discussant) ([recording](#))
- June 25 — Rapid Response Forum: *Protecting NSF Social and Behavioral Science Funding* with Krysta Jones and Julianne Baron
- July 2 — SPTA Liaisons Monthly Meeting
- July 8 — Town Hall: *Managing Outside Lobbyists: Best Practices for Building Effective Advocacy Partnerships* with Alexandra Ginsberg, MPH
- July 30 — Rapid Response Forum: *Key Practice Advocacy Priorities for the CY27 CMS Proposed Physician Fee Schedule* with Stephen Gillaspay, PhD

We also look forward to seeing many of you at the APA Convention, August 6–8. We have terrific CE programming plus the Karl F. Heiser Awards on Friday, August 7th from 4–5 pm in the Convention Center, Level 2, Room 203, followed by our Annual Awards Ceremony and Social Hour from 5:30–7:30 pm, at the Marriott Marquis, Congress Room (901 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001).

Earlier in June, we launched the monthly SPTA liaison meetings. Thank you to Dr. Peter Oppenheimer for spearheading and leading these meetings. The intent is to engage and support SPTA Board members and help them grow their connections

with one another, as well with the division. All are welcome! Together, we can continue building strong, connected, and effective advocacy leadership across psychology.

In other news, the Division 31 Executive Committee is delighted to announce that Division 31 is a founding member of the newly formed Coalition of Psychology Practice Organizations (CPPO). CPPO is an alliance of practice-oriented psychology organizations dedicated to supporting the well-being, professional development, and sustainability of psychologists and doctoral level psychology trainees. You can learn more about the CPPO here: <https://psychologycoalition.org>.

The members of the Coalition are working together to identify and address shared challenges in practice by developing practical resources, professional development opportunities, and forums for connection. In addition to Division 31, founding members include the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP), APA Division 42 (Psychologists in Independent Practice), and the National Register of Health Service Psychologists. We have also welcomed the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) and the Canadian Register of Health Service Psychologists (CRHSP) as liaison members.

This partnership will enhance our collective ability to support you and the broader psychology practice community, but our first

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step in this process was to listen. Wanting to hear from the practice community about challenges and opportunities facing psychologists, we held our first listening session in April where upwards of 70 psychologists participated. We plan to hold additional sessions this summer to learn how a group of member-driven practice organizations can better support your work.

On May 20th, CPPO offered our first free webinar to our constituents, “Clinical Record Keeping, AI and New Technologies: A Cautionary Note,” and on June 12th we held our second one, “Chiles v. Salazar: Implications for Psychology and Licensing.” Over 1000 psychologists attended one or both of these free webinars. Both are available for viewing on the CPPO website: <https://psychologycoalition.org/resources/>.

Congratulations to our incoming President-Elect Diana Prescott, PhD, Secretary Jeanne Slattery, PhD, and to Julie Wolters, PsyD, on being re-elected Member-at-Large. I am also so grateful that Shannon Goecke-Watson, PsyD has graciously agreed to fill the remainder of Diana Prescott’s Member-At-Large term once she steps into her new role as President-Elect in January. It will be an honor to work with all of you. Thank you to everyone who stepped forward and ran for a leadership position within the division. I appreciate your time, dedication, and commitment to

advancing state, provincial, and territorial psychological association affairs. We will find roles for you to remain actively involved in our committees and initiatives!

I am so grateful to the Division 31 board and committee chairs and members for all your work to support the division’s mission of providing political advocacy, leadership resources, and vital support to State, Provincial, and Territorial Psychological Associations (SPTAs) within the American Psychological Association’s governance structure.

Our work is guided by three core priorities:

- **Advocacy & Governance:** Representing SPTA interests within APA governance so local regulatory, practice, and legislative issues are elevated and addressed at the national level.
- **Facilitating Communication:** Connecting professionals, executive directors, and members across states, provinces, and territories to share resources, best practices, and solutions.
- **Recognition & Development:** Highlighting outstanding SPTA initiatives and supporting leadership and advocacy development, including for students and early career psychologists.

For more than a decade, Division 31 has worked to keep dues stable while continuing to support and represent SPTAs. During that time, we absorbed rising operating costs to minimize financial impact on members. Recently, several long-standing

APA subsidies have changed. Beginning in 2025, divisions are responsible for costs associated with attendance at the Practice and SPTA State Leadership Conference (PSLC), as well as expenses related to the APA Convention social hour that were previously subsidized by APA.

After careful review and discussion, Division leadership believes a modest dues increase is necessary to ensure we can continue our advocacy, leadership development, and representation on behalf of SPTAs. We remain committed to responsible stewardship of Division resources and will continue to closely assess our budget, spending, and priorities.

Current Dues

	2026	2027
Member	\$50	\$55
ECP	\$25	\$30
Student	\$10	\$10
Affiliate	\$15	\$20
APA Lifetime		
Dues Exempt	\$20	\$25
Very Small SPTA	\$44	\$50
Small SPTA	\$76	\$85
Medium	\$148	\$175
Large	\$213	\$250
Very Large	\$350	\$400

Thank you for your continued engagement and support of Division 31. We welcome collaboration with our members and SPTAs to tailor programming, strengthen communication, support student and early career development, and advance advocacy efforts that meet your SPTA’s needs.

Member Spotlight

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DPA, Dr. Lee found a welcoming network of colleagues and an organization whose leaders exemplify thoughtful and inclusive leadership. She credits much of her continued engagement to the dedication of DPA's leadership and their commitment to ensuring that diversity and inclusion remain central to the association's work.

Dr. Lee is particularly grateful for the leadership of Drs. Roger Harrison and Christina Watlington, whose efforts have helped strengthen the organization's commitment to inclusion, as well as Dr. Kelly Wetzel, who has played a key role in cultivating a supportive and welcoming environment for members.



Inclusion & Justice

Dr. Lee views a commitment to equity, accessibility, inclusion, diversity, and justice as fundamental to both her professional work and personal values. She approaches her work through a liberation psychology framework, which aligns closely with her belief that psychological well-being cannot be separated

from the social, cultural, and systemic contexts in which people live.

As both a psychologist and a member of historically marginalized communities, Dr. Lee has witnessed and experienced the ways that oppression and inequitable systems can negatively affect individuals, families, and communities. These experiences have strengthened her commitment to advancing justice and advocating for meaningful systemic change.

Hope & Impact

Dr. Lee acknowledges that finding hope in the midst of struggle is not always easy. Yet throughout her personal and professional journey, she has encountered hope in many forms. She finds hope in witnessing the healing process unfold with her clients. She finds hope in observing how change, both individual and systemic, often unfolds gradually, reminding her that meaningful progress is possible even when it is not immediately visible. She finds hope in reading and hearing about elders and others who made their mark in history, and made it possible for the freedoms that many benefit from today. She also finds hope in the interconnectedness of today's world. Through technology, she is able to learn from and connect with people across communities and cultures, witnessing daily examples of creativity, courage, compassion, and joy.

Advice to Your Younger Self

If Dr. Lee could offer advice to her younger professional self and to those just beginning their

careers in psychology it would be this: Do not wait until you feel established to engage. Get involved early, stay curious, and recognize that your perspective and voice matters and is needed in our field!

Fun Facts!

Outside of her professional roles, Dr. Lee enjoys exploring culture through food and is always excited to try new cuisines and culinary experiences. She and her partner share their home with two cats whom they raised from kittens and who are now thoroughly enjoying their lives as beloved family members.

Dr. Lee also finds joy and restoration in spending time outdoors, whether exploring natural spaces or capturing their beauty through photography. A self-described serial arts-and-crafts enthusiast, she is continually discovering new creative hobbies and projects. These interests provide opportunities for creativity, curiosity, and connection—values that also inform her work as a psychologist and community advocate.





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